

Typical Provider Shopping Behaviors

Patient Behaviors	Examples
Multiple providers of the same type.	3 or more general practitioners, dentists, etc.
Dispensers and prescribers are in different localities from each other and the patient's home address.	Patient lives in Kenai; prescriber in Anchorage; dispenser in Wasilla.
Overlapping prescriptions of the same drug from different prescriber types.	Oxycodone scripts from dentist, family physician and pain management doctor within 30 days.
Excessive emergency room visits for non-emergency issues.	3 or more emergency room visits in a month for chronic pain conditions.
Requesting replacement for lost medications regularly.	Patient states that controlled substance is lost and requests new prescription.
Requesting early refills.	Patient requests early refills due to extended out-of-state trip.
Pressuring prescribers to prescribe controlled substances for the patient's family members.	Patient requests the pediatrician prescribe cough syrup with codeine for their child stating that it is needed for the child to sleep better.
Using multiple names, social security numbers, addresses, etc.	Patient fills three scripts under three different names.
Seeking referrals to multiple pain management clinics.	Patient requests referrals to pain management clinics without a specific diagnosis.
Associating with others known to be pharmaceutical controlled substance provider shopping.	Patient travels to clinic with another patient exhibiting shopping behavior and requests similar prescription.
Self-mutilation.	Patient presents with potential self-inflicted wound.
Cash transactions.	Patient prefers to pay cash when insurance available.
Requesting partial dispensing of controlled substance script.	Patient requests half of the script and returns for the rest of the script within 72 hours.
After-hour, weekend and holiday calls for prescriptions.	Patient calls prescriber at midnight on Friday to request a controlled substance script.

RESOURCES

AKPDMP Web Site:

<https://alaska.pmpaware.net>

AKPDMP Help Desk:

Telephone: 1 (855) 525-4767

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

(<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing.aspx>)

- Board of Pharmacy
- Board of Dental Examiners
- State Medical Board
- Board of Nursing
- Board of Examiners in Optometry
- Board of Veterinary Examiners

Alaska Behavioral Health:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dbh/substanceabuse/>

Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator: <http://dasis3.samhsa.gov/>

Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions:

www.ireta.org

AKPDMP



ALASKA BOARD OF PHARMACY

ALASKA PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

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INFORMATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

AKPDMP



ALASKA BOARD OF PHARMACY

ALASKA PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM



HOW THE AKPDMP CAN HELP INCREASE PATIENT SAFETY.

One of the largest threats to patient safety in the State of Alaska is the misuse, abuse and diversion of controlled pharmaceutical substances. Alaska has developed a tool to help health care providers identify patients who may be at risk.

The Alaska Board of Pharmacy's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (AKPDMP) collects data on Schedules II, III and IV controlled substances prescriptions written and dispensed within the state, other than those administered to a patient at a health care facility.

This brochure identifies how the AKPDMP can help you to access the data and address the issue of controlled pharmaceutical substance abuse.

<https://alaska.pmpaware.net>

Controlled Substance Pharmaceutical Abuse



What is controlled pharmaceutical misuse, abuse and diversion?

Anytime a Schedule II-V substance is taken by an individual for a non-medical reason, it may be considered misuse. Misuse becomes abuse when the individual repeatedly takes a controlled substance for a non-medical reason. Controlled substance diversion occurs when a Schedule II-V substance is acquired and taken by an individual for whom the medication was not prescribed.

Though diversion can happen in many ways, health care providers like you can reduce one of the most common methods: pharmaceutical controlled substance provider shopping.

Provider shopping is when a person obtains or attempts to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance by misrepresenting to, or knowingly withholding information from a practitioner. Provider shopping is a class C felony in Alaska.

What can you do for patients who may be misusing or abusing?

As a health care provider you have the unique opportunity to influence the behavior of your patient relatively early in the abuse cycle. Using the information in the AKPDMP report and your clinical judgment, you may be able to intervene before misuse becomes abuse or before abuse becomes diversion.

For more information on intervention, please contact the *Substance Abuse Hotline* at (877-266-4357)

What should you do when diversion is suspected?

If you suspect an individual is involved in diverting controlled pharmaceutical substances, we ask that you please report them to the proper law enforcement authorities.

How do you identify potential provider shoppers?

The **Typical Provider Shopping Behaviors** chart found on the back of this brochure describes some typical behaviors associated with controlled pharmaceutical provider shopping.

Where can I obtain information on intervention resources?

The Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions (IRETA) provides information to improve recognition, prevention, and treatment related to addiction and recovery. The IRETA Web site along with other intervention resources is listed on the back of this brochure.

REPORTS

What is included in a report?

- Patient Report

A report shows all controlled substance prescriptions dispensed to a patient for a specified time period, including the practitioner who prescribed them and the dispenser who dispensed them.

- Prescriber/Dispenser Report

A report shows a licensed practitioner or dispenser **their own** controlled substance prescribing or dispensing for a specified time period.

Who may request a report?

- A licensed practitioner or dispenser for a current or prospective patient
- Federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities under a search warrant, subpoena, or order issued by a court establishing probable cause for the access and use of the information; and
- A licensing board for a licensee or registrant under a search warrant, subpoena, or order issued by an administrative law judge or a court;

How do you request a report?

Reports can be requested via a secure Web based system. To access the system, an account must be requested using the following steps.

- Go to: <https://alaska.pmpaware.net>
- Log on with your existing account, or
- Create an account by clicking on the link.

(All providers are encouraged to have an account with the AKPDMP)

When is a report available?

Via the Web-based system, reports can be requested 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and are often available within 15 – 20 seconds.

Who is required to report?

Both pharmacies **and** dispensing practitioners are required to report.

By the **fifth** of each month, a dispenser must report all controlled substances dispensed during the previous month, other than those administered to a patient at a health care facility.

Per 12 AAC 52.995(a)(34) "dispenser" means a practitioner who delivers a controlled substance to an ultimate user or research subject under the lawful order of a practitioner; in this paragraph, "delivers" includes the prescribing and administering of a controlled substance and the packaging, labeling, or compounding necessary to prepare the substance for delivery;

How do I register to report dispensing controlled substances?

- Go to: <https://alaska.pmpaware.net>
- Click on "Create an Account" and follow the instructions provided.

FAQ

a) "I think my coworker is obtaining/using controlled substances. Can I look him/her up in the AKPDMP?"

Answer: No, providers may only access the data for patients for whom they are considering prescribing or dispensing a controlled substance. Using the AKPDMP inappropriately can also result in a fine and/or criminal action.

b) "I have a patient that would like me to download their prescription history from the AKPDMP and give it to them. Can I do this?"

Answer: No, you cannot disseminate the reports from AKPDMP. If a patient would like their own personal history from the AKPDMP, he/she may obtain that information by contacting the Board.

c) "The local police want me to download a PDMP report on a patient and give it to them for a case they are working on. Can I do that?"

Answer: No, here again, you cannot disseminate the reports from the AKPDMP. If law enforcement officials need reports from the AKPDMP they may obtain them directly from the Board.

d) "Another health care provider has requested that I fax a patient's AKPDMP report to him/her. Can I do that?"

Answer: Yes, however, this is limited to a healthcare provider sharing information with another healthcare provider engaged in an individual patient's care.