



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

BOARD OF PHARMACY
LLOYD K. JESSEN, RPh, JD, DIRECTOR

December 30, 2010

Governor Chester J. Culver
Governor-Elect Terry E. Branstad
Members of the 84th General Assembly
Iowa State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Honorable Governor, Governor-Elect, and Members:

Re: Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program

Pursuant to the requirements of section 124.554, subsection 2, of the Iowa Uniform Controlled Substances Act, the Board of Pharmacy submits the following information.

The Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) provides authorized prescribers and pharmacists with information regarding their patients' use of controlled substances and is used as a tool in determining appropriate prescribing and treatment of patients without fear of contributing to a patient's abuse or dependence on addictive drugs or diversion of those drugs to illicit use. Iowa pharmacies are required to report to the Iowa PMP all Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances dispensed by the pharmacy to ambulatory patients.

The Iowa PMP became fully operational on March 25, 2009. The cost of initial implementation of the Iowa PMP was paid by federal grant and amounted to \$411,250. Annual costs of \$97,608 provide for the receipt and delivery of pharmacy data and database software maintenance. Annual costs are paid from license fees retained by the Board of Pharmacy for the support of Board programs and activities. No additional fees or surcharges have been imposed to pay for activities or support of the Iowa PMP.

The Iowa PMP is administered by the Board of Pharmacy with the assistance and guidance of an advisory council consisting of governor-appointed pharmacists and prescribers. The advisory council meets at least annually to review the progress of the Iowa PMP, the cost of maintaining the Iowa PMP and the benefits of the program, possible improvements to the program, and information, comments, and suggestions received from program users and members of the public. A sampling of those comments is attached as Exhibit 1.

The Board of Pharmacy and the PMP Advisory Council also review statistics regarding the use of the Iowa PMP by prescribers, pharmacists, and law enforcement or regulatory agents; the number of prescriptions filled each year; the top drugs dispensed in Iowa each year; and indices of excessive pharmacy-shopping or doctor-shopping for controlled substances. Attached Exhibit 2 includes some of the data compiled since the establishment of the Iowa PMP.

The data indicate steady increases in the number of pharmacists and prescribers registering to use the Iowa PMP and in the number of requests for patient prescription history being submitted and used by those authorized users. The data also demonstrates that the prescribing and dispensing of these controlled substances has not been unnecessarily or adversely affected by the implementation of the Iowa PMP. The number of prescriptions dispensed and the number of doses dispensed have increased each year for which data has been compiled in the database.

A number of regulatory and law enforcement agents have also registered to use the Iowa PMP. A member of this user community may receive Iowa PMP data only for an existing investigation or case where there has been a determination of probable cause for the information and the request for prescription information is accompanied by an order, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion. Less than one percent of all processed requests are attributable to law enforcement or regulatory agents but those agents who have used information available from the Iowa PMP report improved efficiency and reduced investigative hours due to the central availability of the prescription information compiled in the Iowa PMP database.

A chart identifying the top ten controlled substances dispensed in Iowa during 2010 is attached as Exhibit 3. Although this chart includes the specific data for calendar year 2010, these substances have consistently been identified, with similar quantities, as the top ten controlled substances dispensed during calendar years 2008, 2009, and 2010.

As evidenced by the comments received from prescribers and pharmacists, users have found the Iowa PMP to be a valuable assistive tool in determining appropriate health care treatment for their patients. The Board of Pharmacy and the PMP Advisory Council concur that the Iowa PMP provides proportionally more value for the health care community and their patients than the program costs. The Board of Pharmacy has pre-filed a bill for consideration during the 2011 legislative session that provides for the continuation of the Iowa PMP and that includes a recommended improvement to the Iowa PMP.

Respectfully submitted,



Lloyd K. Jessen, R.Ph., J.D.
Executive Secretary/Director

LKJ:tmw

Attachments

**IOWA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM REPORT 2011
EXHIBIT 1 – A SAMPLING AND EXCERPTS OF
COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED FROM USERS**

From Prescribers:

I have found it helpful in following several patients and having information to discuss with them regarding their prescription usage, and at times misuse.

Who would I write to, to express how awesome of a tool this is to have. I wish I'd had access to this info years ago!

As an ER doc the PMP really helps me sort things out. At some point it would be helpful if it also included non controlled substances.

Thank you very much for this program. I'm sure you hear very often about patients abusing physicians without them realizing it. My last request indicated that a patient had received narcotics from different providers that I would never have known about. Thanks again.

Can nurses in our clinic have access to the monitoring program or is it physician only?

I just wanted to drop a note when it was fresh on my mind how wonderful the web site is for prescription drug monitoring. We have found it immensely helpful in both weeding out some prescription narcotic seekers and for easing our mind that a patient we may suspect is not seeking.

This is a great program to prevent abuse of controlled medications, and to help patients get the help they need by addressing their abuse immediately. I hope the system continues!

I think this is a great tool that will help to eliminate concerns in my mind about patients who may be "hunting" for drugs. I view Iowa PMP as another tool at our disposal to help provide better, more consistent care to our patients.

I am very happy this program is being instituted. Thank you.

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From Pharmacists:

I love this program and anything I can do to help will be worth the investment!

What an unbelievable tool for us as pharmacists. Thank you.

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From Regulatory and Law enforcement agents:

Many drug diversion cases would not be feasible to investigate due to the sheer volume of information and vast amount of work/man hours that these types of cases require. From past experience with these types of cases, when the PMP was not available, with an extensive amount of work I was only able to capture a portion of the abuse out there instead of the entire picture. It is nearly impossible to track down all controlled drug prescriptions in a particular case without this system, even if extra time was allotted to do so. The PMP is a necessity in investigating drug diversion cases for law enforcement. I am pleased with the turnaround time for receipt of the document as well as the organization of the information into a digestible format. Due to the growth of abuse of prescription drugs, law enforcement investigators are getting tasked with investigating these cases on a more frequent basis. Providing a time-efficient and simplistic method to get data for their investigations will ensure that these cases are handled appropriately.

We really do appreciate the service you and this program provides us. Sure makes the work much easier!

IOWA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM REPORT 2011

EXHIBIT 2 -- DATA COMPILATION

MARCH 26, 2009, TO DECEMBER 31, 2010

Period:	3/26/2009 - 6/30/2009	7/1/2009 - 12/31/2009	1/1/2010 - 6/30/2010	7/1/2010 - 12/31/2010
Total CSA Registrant/Prescribers	12,819	13,074	13,228	15,367
Total Iowa Pharmacies	966	939	940	943
Total Iowa-resident Pharmacists	3,253	3,269	3,319	3,314
Prescribers Registered	1,064	1,436	1,862	2,254
Pharmacists Registered	609	758	909	1,020
Regulators Registered	13	15	19	26
Law Enforcement Agents Registered	22	29	44	65
Prescriber Requests Processed	2,404	14,402	19,240	25,266
Pharmacist Requests Processed	1,318	4,385	3,891	4,113
LE/Regulator Requests Processed	44	207	194	146
Total # Requests Processed	3,766	18,994	23,325	29,525
	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009	1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010	
Filled prescriptions for period:				
# Individual patients filling CII Prescriptions	182,755	198,795	291,748	
...from 5 or more prescribers or pharmacies	437	501	197	
...from 10 or more prescribers or pharmacies	18	22	4	
...from 15 or more prescribers or pharmacies	5	4	-	
# Individual patients filling CII or CIII Prescriptions	598,684	611,040	806,449	
...from 5 or more prescribers or pharmacies	2,117	2,270	1,273	
...from 10 or more prescribers or pharmacies	171	171	64	
...from 15 or more prescribers or pharmacies	41	40	10	
# Individual patients filling CII, CIII, CIV Prescriptions	800,956	822,577	1,151,872	
...from 5 or more prescribers or pharmacies	3,050	3,293	1,888	
...from 10 or more prescribers or pharmacies	234	232	91	
...from 15 or more prescribers or pharmacies	53	57	15	
Total # Prescriptions dispensed for period:	4,059,807	4,239,890	4,289,823	
Total # Doses dispensed for period:	223,544,782	228,149,732	234,234,060	

IOWA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM REPORT 2011

EXHIBIT 3 -- CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DOSES DISPENSED

JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2010

