

## Testimonials

*"I recently had a young lady who ... each time she came she would say she... needed Vicodin®... She was new to my practice... I went to the OSA web site and was amazed at how many scripts for narcotics she had filled from different providers. ... The next visit I asked her if she had a problem with narcotics. She denied it, and I then confronted her with the OSA print out. I said I had concerns and would she be willing to get help ... One month later she and her mother came in for help.*

*"On another occasion I felt a patient was not being truthful with his use of narcotics ... and found that indeed he had **not** had many scripts ...*

*"There have been months when I used this site nearly everyday and have found it a valuable tool..."*  
– Family Nurse Practitioner, Western Maine

*"I'm going to remain an ER doctor for longer than I would have if you hadn't started this program."*  
– Southern Maine ER Physician

*"I can actually pull up a patient's profile on my laptop right in the exam room."*  
– Family Practitioner, Eastern Maine

*"The dentists love being able to look patients up over the weekends, when they're on call from home."*  
– Dental Hygienist

## Resources for Questions

**PMP Project Coordinator at OSA** (207) 287-2595

### General PMP Information

Web: [www.maine.gov/dhhs/osa/data/pmp](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/osa/data/pmp)

### OSA's Information Resource Center

Maine Office of Substance Abuse

41 Anthony Avenue

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Phone: (207) 287-8900 or 800-499-0027

TTY: 800-606-0215

Email: [osa.ircosa@maine.gov](mailto:osa.ircosa@maine.gov)

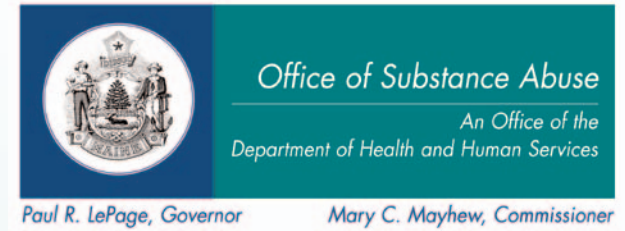


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*Caring..Responsive..Well-Managed  
We are DHHS.*



# Prescription Monitoring Program

*An Overview of  
Maine's PMP*



July 2011

## The PMP Database

Maine's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) maintains a database of all transactions for controlled substances dispensed in the State of Maine. This database is available online to prescribers and dispensers. A free service of the Office of Substance Abuse (OSA) in the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, the PMP database is quickly becoming a standard tool for clinicians to provide better care to their patients throughout the state. All prescribers and dispensers are encouraged to register to request patient reports. These patient reports, and the automatically sent threshold reports, enhance the ability of health care providers to coordinate care. The database is searchable online, so it is available anywhere one has Internet access. Clinicians can use the program to check the history of a new patient and to monitor on-going treatment. PMP is another tool clinicians can add to their toolkit for preventing and intervening against misuse and diversion of prescription drugs.



## How It Works

The state legislature passed a law in 2003 that requires information about all transactions for controlled substances (Schedule II-IV) dispensed in Maine to be reported to OSA. Pharmacies – both in and out of the state – submit data on a standard schedule. The data is then cleaned and added to a relational database. Using patients' names and birth dates, registered users of the database can log on to the web site at [www.maine.gov/pmp](http://www.maine.gov/pmp) to look up their patients online. Clinicians have immediate access to a patient's history with controlled substances freely available at their fingertips.



## Online Database Access

To access the online database, one must first register with PMP. To register, point an Internet browser to [www.maine.gov/pmp](http://www.maine.gov/pmp) and follow the instructions there. Once registered, one can request online patient reports. The portal allows registered prescribers and dispensers to enter a first name, last name, and date of birth to generate a report of all Schedule II, III, and IV drugs that have been dispensed to a particular patient.



## Patient Threshold Reports

Reports are automatically sent to prescribers when threshold numbers of prescribers and pharmacies have been reached or exceeded by a patient during a given quarter.

## Benefits to the Clinicians

1. Accurate background information on a new patient can be obtained.
2. Current patients can be monitored.
3. Threshold reports provide warnings on patients who may be misusing or diverting prescription drugs and can assist prescribers in coordination of care.

## Concerning Threshold Reports

OSA encourages prescribers to review Patient Threshold Reports to confirm whether or not they wrote the prescriptions shown on the reports. If the report is accurate, prescribers are advised to discuss their concerns with the patient. If one or more records on a report appear to be inaccurate, prescribers are asked to contact the pharmacy to request a correction. Prescribers may also want to keep a



copy of the threshold report in the patient's record or chart.

OSA's goal is to get patients the treatment they need if they have drug-related problems. Clinicians are asked to assist the patient in finding substance abuse treatment in their area.

More information about substance abuse treatment services and support groups is available from OSA: [www.maine.gov/dhhs/osa](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/osa).

## Addressing Concerns

### Confidentiality

Patient confidentiality is carefully protected. Access to the database is limited to registered users.



### The "Chilling Effect"

Some people may be concerned that prescribers will be less likely to provide pain medications to those that need them, but programs like this one have actually been shown to have the opposite effect, increasing access to opioids for people with legitimate pain. OSA only gives reports to law enforcement authorities if there is a subpoena from the Attorney General. This program is intended for prevention and intervention for people involved in illicit use of prescription drugs.

### Data Accuracy

OSA encourages dispensers to be thorough in their record keeping because the reports will only be as accurate as the data received. Most important, pharmacists should carefully record prescriber DEA numbers when filling prescriptions for controlled substances.

All records are automatically checked for obvious errors before they are accepted into the database.

Data that needs to be edited is rejected.