



HIPAA APPLICABILITY

A covered entity such as a prescriber or pharmacy may disclose protected health information for certain public health activities and purposes. In addition, disclosure may be made to a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law. These two exceptions allow for the disclosure of information to and from the Prescription Monitoring Program.

The HIPAA Privacy Rule sets limits on how health plans and covered providers may use individually identifiable health information. Personal health information may not be used for purposes not related to health care, and covered entities may use or share only the minimum amount of protected information needed for a particular purpose. However, the rule does not restrict prescribers from sharing information needed to treat their patients.

Also, under Connecticut General Statutes, the prescribing practitioner or pharmacist shall not disclose any information except as authorized pursuant to sections 20-570 to 20-630, inclusive, or sections 21a-240 to 21a-283, inclusive.

For more information about the HIPAA Privacy Rule, visit HHS, Office for Civil Rights:

<http://www.dhhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>

Connecticut Prescription Monitoring & Reporting System (CPMRS)



How You Can Help Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse

An Overview for Prescribers & Pharmacists

CPMRS BENEFITS:

- Prescribers can have more accurate information on all controlled substance drugs a patient is taking.
- Accurate controlled substance prescription information is immediately available online 24/7.
- Reports can provide warnings of drug interaction.
- Reports can provide warnings of the misuse, diversion or abuse of prescription drugs.
- Prescribers and pharmacists can help identify inappropriate controlled substance drug use.
- Prescribers and pharmacists can work together to provide better patient care and prevent drug misuse, diversion and abuse.

TO REGISTER FOR A FREE CPMRS ACCOUNT

- Visit the PMP WebCenter at <https://www.ctmpm.com> and click on "Not a User? Register to become a User." This will initiate an automated registration process.
- Provide your basic contact information and indicate your status as a practitioner or pharmacy. (Currently, the system is only intended to be utilized by the registered practitioner or pharmacy. Access to the system may not be delegated to other individuals.)
- Once the registration application is submitted online, you will receive a confirmation page. Print, review, sign and fax the confirmation page to DCP PMP at (860) 713-7242.
- Your User Name and Password will be mailed to your address of record on file with the Department of Consumer Protection.

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

Prescription Monitoring Program

165 Capitol Avenue, Room 145

Hartford, CT 06106

(860) 713-6073 • www.ct.gov/dcp



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CPMRS: WHAT IS IT?

Because prescription drug abuse is an increasing problem that endangers public health and safety, the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) is taking measures to monitor prescription drug use in an effort to identify patterns of potential misuse, diversion or abuse. And it is asking Connecticut-licensed prescribers and pharmacists to assist in that effort through the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS).

The CPMRS is a web-based application designed to help prescribers and pharmacists provide better patient care and reduce controlled substance misuse, diversion and abuse. Here's how it works:

FOR PHARMACISTS

Using the CPMRS web-based database, pharmacies that dispense Schedule II-V controlled substance drugs are required to submit their prescription data to Optimum Technology, Inc., a private contractor that collects the data and manages all technical aspects of the program.

All transactions are submitted at least twice monthly. Pharmacies are encouraged to report prior to the deadline in order to have time to correct any rejected submissions. They may also report more frequently if they prefer.

With the CPMRS database, pharmacists are able to review their controlled substance prescription information online 24/7 to check for patterns of misuse, diversion or abuse.

For technical assistance, please call Optimum at (866) 683-3246 or e-mail ctrxreport@otech.com.

FOR PRESCRIBERS

Prescribers generally are the primary users of the information in the online database, where they may access patient prescription information 24/7 to review all the controlled substance prescriptions a patient is taking and the frequency and dosage of each.



PATIENT THRESHOLD REPORTS

In addition to the online information, the CPMRS generates reports on patients who cross certain thresholds. Because these Patient Threshold Reports are intended to identify possible inappropriate use of controlled substance drugs, they are automatically sent to both prescribers and pharmacists when threshold numbers of prescribers and/or pharmacies have been reached or exceeded by a patient or prescription customer.

Prescribers and pharmacists are encouraged to review Patient Threshold Reports to confirm that the person listed on the report is, indeed, a patient or prescription customer. If the report is accurate, prescribers and pharmacists are advised to discuss their concerns with their patient or prescription customer and the other prescribers and/or pharmacists included in the report. If any information on the report appears to be inaccurate, prescribers and pharmacists are asked to contact the Prescription Monitoring Program at (860) 713-6073. Prescribers and pharmacists may also want to keep a copy of the threshold report with the patient's records.



WHAT CAN HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS DO?

Most patients take prescription medications responsibly. However, practitioners must be aware of the increasing problem with prescription drug abuse. In 2005, more than six million Americans reported non-medical use of prescription drugs within the previous month, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. That's more than the number of people who used cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants combined. And nearly half (48%) of all emergency room visits resulting from controlled substance drug abuse were by youth 12–20 years of age.

Practitioners prescribing controlled substances can counsel patients about the danger posed by taking medications in a way not directed or by combining them with other medications or alcohol. Practitioners can also counsel parents to secure their prescriptions and properly dispose of unused medications.

The goal is to get people the treatment they need if they have a substance abuse problem and to decrease poisoning and overdosing on prescription drugs.

