

Prescription Drug Monitoring

FAQs

Which drugs are considered controlled substances and have to be reported?

All drugs that are designated as classes II - V by either the federal government or the State of Alabama. A list of the drugs can be found at:

<http://www.adph.org/administration/controlled.pdf>

Do I have to report when I prescribe a patient medication(s)?

No. You only have to report the dispensing of controlled medications to patients. This does not include samples, medication administered in the office, or medication given to the patient from assistance programs.

How does this program relate to HIPAA?

HIPAA regulations state that health care providers can disclose PHI without patient consent if:

- the disclosure is **required by law**, or
- the disclosure is **required for public health activities** such as "preventing and controlling of disease, injury, or disability" and "the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigation, and public health interventions." 45 CFR 164.512 (a) and (b).

There are several state laws requiring the disclosure of PHI to public health, such as laws regarding:

- notifiable diseases (Ala. Code 22-11A-1 through - 6);
- cancer registry (Ala. Code 22-13-32);
- newborn screening (Ala. Code 22-10-3);
- immunization (Ala. Code 22-11B-1); and
- head and spinal cord injury registry (Ala. Code 22-11C-6).

Reporting to the Prescription Drug monitoring program would likewise be "required by law." See Ala. Code 22-2-213 and thus would be exempt from the requirements of HIPAA.

How often do I have to report?

You have to report the prescription information no more than 7 days from the dispensing

date. ADPH recommends that you report your information weekly. If you wish to report your information more than once a week, you may.

Who can I contact for non-technical questions?

For non-technical issues, you may contact Patti Stadlberger, the PDMP Program Manager with ADPH, at the following:

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Program Manager,
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)
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Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3017
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Who can I contact for technical assistance?

If you require technical assistance, please contact the PDM Technical Support Team. You can email them at

pdm-info@hidinc.com,
or call them at 1-800-225-6998(option 6).

<http://www.adph.org/PHARMACYUNIT/pdmpinfopacket.pdf>

<http://pdmp.alabama.gov/>