MN PMP: What is it?
Prescription drug abuse is an increasing problem that endangers public health and safety. In January 2010 the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy implemented the MN Prescription Monitoring Program (MN PMP) to monitor prescription drug use in an effort to promote public health and welfare by detecting diversion, abuse and misuse of certain controlled substances listed in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 152. Licensed prescribers, pharmacists and their delegates are invited to assist in that effort through the use of the MN PMP electronic database.

The MN PMP database is accessed through a secure, web-based application designed to help prescribers and pharmacists provide better patient care and reduce controlled substance misuse, diversion and abuse by assisting patients in getting the help that they need to deal with either chronic, under-treated pain or chemical dependency.

By law, an individual’s controlled substance prescription history can only be maintained in the database for a 12-month period before being removed.

How does it work?
For Pharmacies and Dispensers
Pharmacies licensed by the MN Board of Pharmacy as well as other dispensers of prescription drugs (such as physicians, hospitals, and clinics that dispense controlled substances that a patient takes home), are required to report the dispensing of controlled substances listed in the state’s Schedules II-IV. Data is submitted electronically to Health Information Designs, LLC, a private contractor that collects the data and manages all technical aspects of the program for Minnesota. Data is usually submitted daily, although some pharmacies that dispense a low volume of controlled substances, report weekly.

For Prescribers
Prescribers have been the primary users of the online database. Patient controlled substance prescription history is available 24/7, 365 days a year, allowing the prescriber to view information such as: quantity and dosage of the controlled substance dispensed, the pharmacy that dispensed the prescription, and in some cases the practitioner who prescribed to the patient. Minnesota law only allows a prescriber’s name to be displayed on a report when the MN PMP office has received written consent from the prescriber.

For Pharmacists
Using the MN PMP online database, pharmacists are able to review a patient’s controlled substance prescription history 24/7, 365 days a year, to check for potential drug interactions, patterns of misuse, potential diversion or abuse and generally to assist in determining the appropriateness in dispensing.

www.pmp.pharmacy.state.mn.us
For Law Enforcement
Minnesota Statutes 152.126, Subd. 6(b)(7) requires a court issued search warrant to access data contained in the MN PMP database. Information for Law enforcement can be found on the MN PMP website at www.pmp.pharmacy.state.mn.us by clicking “Other forms and documents.”

How accurate is the information in an Individual Prescription History Report?
MN PMP does not warrant any report to be accurate or fully complete. The information contained in the database comes directly from the dispensing pharmacy and mistakes, while uncommon, are possible. As such, the Individual Prescription History Report should only be used to supplement a patient evaluation, to confirm a patient’s drug history, to document compliance with a therapeutic regimen or to assist law enforcement in an ongoing investigation.

MN PMP benefits:
- Prescribers and pharmacists have immediate online access to controlled substance prescription information 24/7, 365 days a year.
- No cost to access data.
- Information is based on data received from most MN licensed pharmacies, including pharmacies located out-of-state that ship prescriptions into MN, and other dispensers.
- Reports can provide assistance in determining misuse, diversion or abuse of prescription drugs.
- Prescribers and pharmacists can help identify inappropriate controlled substance prescription use.
- Prescribers and pharmacists can work together to provide better patient care and prevent potential misuse, diversion and abuse.

How to register for a free MN PMP Account
Visit the MN PMP public website at www.pmp.pharmacy.state.mn.us and click on “Access Request Forms.”

- Select the appropriate access request form.
- Complete the account registration form (The email address you provide will be used to notify you of your personal account information). Please refrain from using an email address that can be accessed by others.
- When prompted, print a copy of the form for your records.

All information is electronically transmitted. Upon receipt, your credentials will be verified and email notification will be sent within 2 business days.

Questions about the MN PMP database may be directed to the MN PMP office at (651) 201-2836 or by email at minnesota.pmp@state.mn.us.

Protecting the privacy of patients’ health information
Access to MN PMP database occurs through a secure Internet website which requires users to login with a user ID and password.

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. For more information about the HIPAA Privacy Rule, visit HHS, Office for Civil Rights: http://www.dhhs.gov/ocr/hipaa.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-PM-BX-0001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Community Capacity Development Office, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.