



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

[An opioid dispensing and misuse prevention algorithm for community pharmacy practice](#)

The authors developed the following outline based on clinical practice and existing research to guide pharmacists in using the PDMP:

- (1) start with ensuring authenticity of the prescription;
- (2) employ state prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) as a primary screening tool to detect those at risk for prescription opioid abuse;
- (3) employ the additional abuse detection steps of clinical profile review and observation of the person picking up the prescription; involve protocols of sharing concerns with the patient, making contact with the prescriber, and/or return of the prescription if appropriate, and
- (4) be easy to follow and significantly enhanced through color coding.

[Educating Pharmacists on a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#)

Challenges faced by pharmacists included insufficient education on why pharmacists need to use PDMP, pharmacists felt that PDMP was not for their benefit, and pharmacists believed it should be physicians' responsibility to screen their patients for potential abuse and diversion.

[Pharmacists' training, perceived roles, and actions associated with dispensing controlled substance prescriptions](#)

A survey of community pharmacists in Texas found that older pharmacists with a BSP Pharm degree may be more willing to provide counseling to patients with opioid addiction based on their work experience and additional CPE related to controlled substances. As PDMP use becomes more prevalent, pharmacists should be prepared to interact and counsel patients identified with aberrant controlled prescription drug use and properly deliver pain management care. Additionally, schools of pharmacy curricula must prepare new pharmacists to prevent abuse and diversion, as well as intervene when aberrant use is identified.

[Pharmacist and physician views on collaborative practice](#)

This study found that attitudes of pharmacists and physicians changed with experience and observing

the benefits of collaborative practice. A lack of time and remuneration were identified as barriers to collaboration. To fully benefit from collaboration, the authors suggest there needs to be a change in compensation, time allocation, reimbursement models, and infrastructure.

[Promoting consistent use of prescription drug monitoring programs \(PDMP\) in outpatient pharmacies: Removing administrative barriers and increasing awareness of Rx drug abuse](#)

Based on a brief survey of outpatient pharmacists, "insufficient time" was the most common barrier reported for pharmacists using the PDMP. Furthermore, 10% of the pharmacists reported that they were afraid of the perceived legal ramifications that may accompany use of the program. The study also found that pharmacists who believed prescription drug misuse was a significant problem in their communities, queried the PDMP much more often.

[Pharmacists' Role in Opioid Safety: A Focus Group Investigation](#)

During focus groups, pharmacists expressed discomfort filling potentially high-risk opioid prescriptions and identified barriers such as lack of clinical information and discomfort policing high-risk prescribing. The study's authors concluded that ambiguities in pharmacists' roles may be clarified through training focused on communication with patients.

[Prescription drug monitoring program utilization in Kentucky community pharmacies](#)

A survey of Kentucky pharmacists found that independent pharmacists were more likely to use the PDMP compared to chain pharmacists. Chain pharmacists reported a lack of internet access more than their independent peers, but the authors also suggest that workflow and corporate policies may also influence the decreased use among chain pharmacists.



GENERAL PDMP RESOURCES FOR PHARMACISTS

Link	Description	State/Organization
https://health.maryland.gov/pdmp/Documents/[UPDATED%20+%20LINKED]~%20Printable%20Clinical%20Docs/[Updated}%20Maryland%20PDMP%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf	PDMP Fact Sheet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of PMDP - Prescriber/Pharmacist Use Mandate - Guidance for recognizing opioid use disorder 	Maryland
https://www.pharmacytimes.com/view/nacds-cites-pharmacys-collaborative-commitment-in-curbing-prescription-drug-abuse-diversion	Red Flags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signs for recognizing opioid use disorder based on the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy 	Pharmacy Times
https://health.maryland.gov/pharmacy/docs/Newsletters/Fall%20winter%202019%20MDBOP%20Newsletter_final.pdf	Refusal to Fill Opioids Prescription <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidance when deciding not to dispense an opioid prescription 	Maryland Board of Pharmacy
https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/healthcare-professionals/pdmps.html	Using PMDP Information to Make Clinical Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explanation of how to integrate PDMP into best dispensing practices 	CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
https://health.maryland.gov/pdmp/Pages/Dispensers0106-5.aspx	Maryland PDMP Dispenser Reporting Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dispenser reporting requirements for Naloxone medication and Controlled Substances 	Maryland

RESOURCES RELATED TO COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PHARMACISTS AND PROVIDERS

Link	Description
https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2327857916051000	Building Bridges Between Physicians and Pharmacists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addresses the barriers to good communications - Highlights communication pathways between healthcare providers and pharmacists - Underlines main contributors to miscommunication
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6401330/pdf/nihms-1515656.pdf	Cultivating Interprofessional Collaboration for Pharmacy Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluates the effectiveness of collaboration between medical and pharmacy students - Highlights best practices for pharmacy students to build working relationships with physicians - Addresses ways to communicate information to physicians
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3123145/	Physicians and Pharmacists Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlights program for better collaboration between physicians and pharmacists through the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) for pharmacy students