



December 14, 2020

Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy – Chair
Economic Affairs Interim Committee
66th Montana Legislature
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, Montana 59620-1706

RE: 2020 Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR) Interim Report

Dear Chair Stewart Peregoy:

The Montana Board of Pharmacy (Board) submits this interim report as an update of the Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR), pursuant to 37-7-1514, MCA. The Board administers and maintains the MPDR and is administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industry (Department).

MPDR Overview

The MPDR program was launched in November 2012 and is accessed through a secure online database. MPDR collects a list of controlled substance prescriptions prescribed to patients and reported by pharmacies and allows authorized health care providers to access the information for improving patient safety. MPDR information may also be used to identify possible misuse and/or diversion of controlled substances. The MPDR website is: www.mpdr.mt.gov.

Legislative Audit and New Vendor

In February 2018, the Legislative Audit Division initiated an Information Systems Audit #18DP-01 (audit) of the MPDR program. The audit was completed in June 2019 and ongoing follow-up is maintained with audit staff and the Legislative Audit Committee.

In April 2020, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to address items identified in the audit and to address ongoing limitations of the current system operated by NIC-Montana (formerly Montana Interactive). The RFP process was completed in June 2020 with the selection of a new vendor, Appriss Health; the contract was signed in September 2020. Appriss Health is a national vendor operating prescription drug registry programs in 47 states. Transition planning to the new system platform, Appriss PMP AWARe, is in progress and the “go-live” date to launch the new MPDR system is targeted for early 2021.

Importantly, the new system will provide significant improvements to MPDR functionality, clinical tools for prescribers and pharmacists, statistical analysis and research options, pharmacy reporting audits, and administrative management tools. The new MPDR system will also facilitate improved provider access through direct frontline workflow data integration with health information systems, including electronic health records, health information exchanges, and pharmacy dispensing systems. In



addition, the MPDR Advisory Group will be reengaged in January 2021 to help review clinical tools and functionality available in the new system and to consider future MPDR rule changes.

MPDR Staffing

Another advancement for management of the MPDR program was the Department's support in elevating the MPDR Program Manager to a pharmacist-level position and Nikki Griffis, PharmD, started this position in October 2020. In addition, the Board continues to receive assistance from the Department's Technical Services Division on contract and project management activities.

2019 Legislative Changes

We appreciate Legislative support from the 2019 Session in which two laws were enacted impacting MPDR, Senate Bill 61 and House Bill 86. Provisions included securing permanent MPDR funding, requiring MPDR registration, providing MPDR data integration authority, and, effective July 2021, requiring prescribers to search MPDR in certain circumstances.

MPDR Statistics and Access

The MPDR maintains over 5.9 million prescriptions in the database, averages nearly 40,000 prescription history searches per month, and is sharing data with 28 states, including all border states. Over 66% of prescribers and pharmacists located in Montana are registered to search MPDR – a 12% increase from 2019. We expect to have increased MPDR use and registration once transition to the new Appriss PMP AWARe system is completed in early 2021.

Access to MPDR information is limited to the following:

- Prescribers: Physicians, physician assistants, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, naturopathic physicians, and advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority;
- Pharmacists;
- Authorized agents (delegates) who search on behalf of a prescriber/pharmacist;
- Authorized representatives of Medicaid, Medicare, the Veterans Administration, Indian Health Services, and Tribal Health;
- Law enforcement pursuant to a subpoena;
- Professional licensing boards investigating drug misuse or diversion;
- Individuals who request a copy of their own prescription history; and
- Authorized Board staff for administrative purposes.

On behalf of the Board of Pharmacy, thank you for the opportunity to update the Committee on our efforts in providing a more advanced MPDR tool for improving patient safety. For additional information on MPDR, please contact Nikki Griffis, PharmD, MPDR Program Manager, at Nikki.Griffis@mt.gov, or 406-841-2240.

Sincerely,

Marcie Bough, PharmD
Executive Officer

CC: Todd Younkin, BSD Administrator