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Arizona Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Arizona Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)?

The Arizona Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), passed by the Arizona legislature in 2017, requires that medical practitioners register with the PMP and obtain a patient utilization report before prescribing an opioid analgesic or benzodiazepine controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV for a patient. This patient utilization report includes a patient's prescription drug history for the preceding 12 months from the program's central database tracking system.

2. When does or did the Arizona PMP mandate or requirement go into effect?

The Arizona PMP mandate went into effect on October 16, 2017. The law required that the mandate go into effect the latter of October 1, 2017 or sixty days after the state health information exchange (HIE), Health Current, integrated the PMP data into the HIE. Health Current notified the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy that it had integrated the PMP data into the HIE as of August 17, 2017; and therefore, sixty days after this occurred – on October 16, 2017, the mandate became effective.

3. Why did the Arizona law tie the beginning of the PMP mandate to a date after the state HIE integrated the PMP data was integrated into the HIE?

The PMP law recognized that most medical practitioners will access the PMP in their daily patient workflow, either through their electronic health record (EHR) system or through the statewide HIE. The mandate was delayed, allowing EHR companies and the statewide HIE to integrate the PMP database into their systems.

4. What are the exceptions to the PMP Mandate?

Medical practitioners are not required to obtain a patient utilization report from the PMP if any of the following applies:

- The patient is receiving hospice care or palliative care for a serious or chronic illness.

- The patient is receiving care for cancer, a cancer-related illness or condition or dialysis treatment.
- A medical practitioner will administer the controlled substance.
- The patient is receiving the controlled substance during the course of inpatient or residential treatment in a hospital, nursing care facility, assisted living facility, correctional facility or mental health facility.
- The medical practitioner is prescribing the controlled substance to the patient for no more than a ten-day period for an invasive medical or dental procedure or a medical or dental procedure that results in acute pain to the patient.
- The medical practitioner is prescribing the controlled substance to the patient for no more than a ten-day period for a patient who has suffered an acute injury or a medical or dental disease process that is diagnosed in an emergency department setting and that results in acute pain to the patient. An acute injury or medical disease process does not include back pain.
- The medical practitioner is prescribing no more than a five-day prescription and has reviewed the program's central database tracking system for that patient within the last thirty days, and the system shows that no other prescriber has prescribed a controlled substance in the preceding thirty-day period.

5. How do medical practitioners in Arizona access the patient utilization report in the PMP?

Practitioners must first register with the Arizona Board of Pharmacy. When practitioners register, they also identify any delegates who will access the state database under their registration. With registration complete, practitioners may access the state database in three ways:

- Arizona Board of Pharmacy website
The Board of Pharmacy website is available immediately to practitioners and their delegates.
- A connection through their electronic health record (EHR)
Prescribers can access the state database through their EHR connection once their EHR system has integrated with the state database and is in operation. Providers should check with their EHR vendor regarding the availability and timing of a connection to the state database.
- A connection through Health Current, Arizona's statewide HIE
The statewide prescription database was integrated into the HIE as of August 17, 2017. Prescribers can access the statewide database through Health Current, but first they must become an HIE participant, be connected to the HIE portal and be set up for access to the state database.

6. What is the value of connecting to the state PMP through Health Current?

While Health Current offers efficient workflow access to the state PMP, there is much more value to HIE participation. Today, the HIE contains information on 7 million unique patients, with nearly 400 organizations participating in the HIE, including all major hospitals. For

example, information on nearly 95 percent of all hospital inpatient and emergency discharges is available through the HIE. Participants save valuable time and resources with one connection to the HIE that eliminates the need to manage multiple connections to hospitals, reference labs and other providers. In addition, there are many services that help integrate the secure sharing of patient information into provider work flows:

- Alerts – event notifications (admissions, discharges, etc.) sent to participants based on a panel of patients that they wish to track.
- Direct Email – secure email accounts that allow registered users to exchange patient protected health information.
- Portal – secure web-based access that allows selected patient data to be viewed online. This includes access to the PMP Gateway.
- Data Exchange – electronic interfaces between a participant’s EHR and other EHRs or patient tracking systems, including unidirectional and bidirectional exchange.
- Clinical Summaries – comprehensive Continuity of Care Documents (CCDs) containing up to 90 days of a patients recent clinical and encounter information.

7. According to state law, patients have the right to opt out of having their information available through a health information organization such as Health Current. How are Health Current participants able to access the statewide prescription database for patients who have opted out?

Only about 5 percent of patients choose to opt out of having their information available through the HIE. For these patients, Health Current has developed a way for HIE participants to access the statewide PMP when no information is available on the patient through the HIE. When a patient has opted out, HIE participants searching for that patient will see a message or screen indicating that no information is available on the patient. At this point, HIE participants will have an option to access the PMP outside the HIE platform. With this option, HIE participants manually enter patient identification to access patient prescription utilization history in the PMP.