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Arizona's PMP Law: Requirements and Exceptions

Arizona's Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)

Created through legislation passed in 2007, Arizona law requires pharmacies and medical practitioners who dispense controlled substances in Schedule II, III, and IV to a patient to report prescription information to the Arizona Board of Pharmacy on a daily basis. This law was amended in 2017 with the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), effective October 16, 2017, requiring that:

a medical practitioner, before prescribing an opioid analgesic or benzodiazepine controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV for a patient, ***shall obtain a patient utilization report regarding the patient for the preceding twelve months*** from the controlled substances prescription monitoring program's central database tracking system ***at the beginning of each new course of treatment and at least quarterly*** while that prescription remains a part of the treatment.

Exceptions to the Mandate

The medical practitioner is 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.