

Maryland's New Prescription Drug Mandate Begins Oct 1

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) monitors the prescribing and dispensing of drugs that contain controlled dangerous substances (CDS). The goal of the PDMP is to assist in the identification and prevention of prescription drug abuse. It also promotes a balanced use of prescription data that preserves the professional practice of healthcare providers and legitimate access to optimal pharmaceutical care.

The program is overseen by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). This information is securely stored and disclosed only to persons or agencies whose access is specifically authorized by state law.

Beginning Oct. 1, under provisions of Maryland law HB 437, , all practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances in Maryland must be registered with the mandatory Prescription Drug Monitoring Program through CRISP prior to obtaining a new or renewal state CDS Registration or by July 1,2017 whichever occurs first. In addition, prescribers must query and review their patients PDMP data prior to initially prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine , or other CDS , and at least every 90 days thereafter as long as the course of treatment continues to include these drugs.. The results of these queries must be documented in the patients chart. There is a possibility of further requirements before this law is fully implemented.