

Oct. 18, 2017

Dear Health Care Provider,

I am writing as your Commissioner to remind you about a critical deadline that is fast approaching for prescribers to register in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). **All prescribers are required by Georgia law to register in the PDMP by Jan. 1, 2018.** Currently only about 50 percent of prescribers in Georgia are registered in the PDMP.

As you may recall, the Georgia General Assembly passed House Bill 249 during the 2017 legislative session. The legislation provided for several changes to the PDMP.

1. **Effective July 1, 2017, dispensers are required to enter prescription information for Schedule II, III, IV, V controlled substances within 24 hours.** This provides prescribers more efficient access to information with less wait time as they make the best clinical decisions possible for their patients.
2. **All prescribers are required to register in the PDMP by Jan. 1, 2018.** Prescribers already registered DO NOT need to register again.
3. **Beginning July 1, 2018, prescribers will be required to check PDMP before prescribing opiates or cocaine derivatives listed in Schedule II or benzodiazepines.** A list of these drugs can be found [here](#). (Prescribers are currently encouraged to check the PDMP before prescribing opiates or cocaine derivatives listed in Schedule II or benzodiazepines, but are not yet required to do so.)

The purpose of the PDMP is to reduce the abuse of controlled substances and to promote proper use of medications used to treat pain and terminal illness. The PDMP also helps reduce duplicative prescribing and overprescribing of controlled substances.

If you have not yet registered, go to [georgia.pmpaware.net/login](http://georgia.pmpaware.net/login). You will need:

- Your name and business address
- Primary phone number
- Date of birth
- Last 4 digits of SSN
- DEA number
- NPI number
- Professional license number and type
- Health care specialty

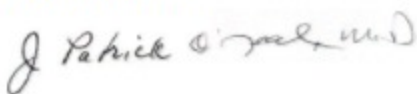
Please be aware that in order to successfully register, information provided must match **exactly** the information on your professional license. Registration requests that do not match will be rejected.

Under the new law, prescribers and dispensers are allowed to register two **delegates** per shift or rotation to check the PDMP and enter prescription information. DPH will allow new delegates to register once all prescribers are registered. We will provide more information about delegates and how they may be registered after Jan. 1, 2018.

Trainings and webinars are available on the DPH website [dph.georgia.gov/pdmp](http://dph.georgia.gov/pdmp). You will also find a copy of the amended law regarding PDMP and a list of frequently asked questions. If you have any questions about the PDMP or registering, please send an email to [pdmpsupport@dph.ga.gov](mailto:pdmpsupport@dph.ga.gov) or call 404-463-1517.

Georgia, like the rest of the country, is in the midst of an opioid epidemic. Opioid addiction, overdoses and abuse of prescription pain medications are a public health crisis. Working together we have the power to help reduce the number of Georgians severely affected by or dying from opioid overdoses.

Very truly yours,



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D.  
Commissioner



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D.  
Commissioner, Georgia  
Department of Public Health

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