

Prescription Monitoring Program

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Non-medical use, abuse and diversion of controlled substances are ongoing problems. Veterinarians can make a difference in reducing the availability of controlled substances for diversion or misuse. This now includes tramadol. Veterinarians can be unknowingly targeted by individuals diverting or using controlled substances for non-medical purposes. Veterinarians are now also legally required to report any employees suspected to be diverting.

The 2014 legislature made several changes to MN Statute 152.126, the law governing the state's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The statute now allows veterinarians holding a DEA number to access their animal patient's controlled substance prescription history, and their prescribing history to outside pharmacies. This latter privilege has proven useful to identify prescription writing fraud. In a multi-doctor practice with a single DEA number, other veterinarians may be able to access the PMP if registered as a "dependent", i.e. someone working under another veterinarian's DEA number.

Through the Prescription Monitoring Program, the MN Board of Pharmacy collects prescription data on all schedules II-V controlled substance and butalbital prescriptions. (Butalbital is a barbiturate.) The data is reported by most MN licensed pharmacies and by prescribers who dispense from their practice. However, MN law exempts veterinarians from reporting prescriptions they dispense for outpatient use, so the data base only compiles those prescriptions which are filled at pharmacies. The MN PMP is a tool to improve patient care and to reduce the abuse, misuse and diversion of controlled substances. Veterinarians can now access the database to reduce the risk of doctor shopping.

The MN PMP is not intended to reduce the number of controlled substance prescriptions being prescribed; instead, it is to further understand a patient's prescription history prior to prescribing or dispensing.

In Minnesota, prescribers are not required to use the MN PMP database, but use is highly encouraged. In other states, PMP's have been shown to work effectively by giving prescribers the information needed to be comfortable with a choice to prescribe a controlled substance or not. The reports can also show if a patient is receiving prescriptions for controlled substances from multiple providers.

Important considerations for veterinarians using the MN PMP:

- Veterinarians can only access their animal patient's data when they are prescribing or considering prescribing, dispensing or considering dispensing a controlled substance for their animal patient. Additionally, they can access the animal patient's data when providing emergency medical treatment, if access to the data is necessary.
- MN PMP participates in the PMP InterConnect system that enhances the capability of MN PMP users, allowing them to communicate with other states regarding their patients. This can be very important to veterinarians in cities located near state lines or who believe their patient has received prescriptions in other states.
- Dispensing information can take up to 48 hours before it appears in the database and prescription records are only available in the database for 12 months.
- The MN PMP system provides a query function for prescribers to track activity under their own DEA number and can see the prescribing, dosing and dispensing history associated with the number. Use of this function could show questionable activity or possible DEA number theft.
- Veterinarians that do not have their own DEA registration number, must have permission of the DEA license holder to become registered as a "dependent".
- PMP user accounts are issued to individuals; there are no group or office accounts. The account owner is responsible for all use of the data which has been accessed under their user id.

Please contact the Board of Pharmacy to register or to ask questions via email at Minnesota.PMP@state.mn.us or 651-201-2836. For information on how to register for access to the MN PMP visit <http://www.pharmacy.state.mn.us/>

