

# Prevent Opioid Misuse and Abuse in Arizona

## Prescriber Requirements for Compliance with Arizona's Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)

The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is an important tool to reduce morbidity, mortality, misuse, and abuse related to prescription drugs, specifically opioids. The primary function of the PMP is to provide a central database of all prescriptions dispensed for Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances in Arizona.

Created through legislation passed in 2007 (A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 28), 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. Tracking the prescribing, dispensing, and consumption of controlled substances through the PMP database is critical to identifying abusers and misusers; referring these individuals for treatment; and identifying and stopping diversion of prescription controlled substances. Confidentiality and security of the data is a primary concern for the PMP.

**NEW REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 16, 2017:** All prescribers are required to obtain a patient utilization report from the PMP prior to prescribing an opioid analgesic or benzodiazepine controlled substance. There are some exceptions to the requirement for certain conditions or circumstances. It is the prescriber's responsibility to understand the new law and the requirements before the mandate goes into effect.

If you are unfamiliar with the components of the impending mandate, this PMP Compliance Checklist may be helpful in preparing yourself and your practice.

### QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFORMATION?



**Arizona Board of Pharmacy**  
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program  
602-771-2732  
<https://pharmacympm.az.gov/>  
[mpm@azpharmacy.gov](mailto:mpm@azpharmacy.gov)

**Health Current Arizona**  
Statewide Health Information Exchange  
602-688-7200  
<https://healthcurrent.org/>  
[info@healthcurrent.org](mailto:info@healthcurrent.org)

**Arizona Department of Health Services  
Clinicians Website on Opioid Prescribing**  
(Arizona guidelines, links to CMEs, etc.)  
[www.azhealth.gov/opioidprescribing](http://www.azhealth.gov/opioidprescribing)

**Prescription Drug Misuse &  
Abuse Initiative Community Toolkit**  
[www.RethinkRxAbuse.org](http://www.RethinkRxAbuse.org)

# PMP COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

1. Confirm you are registered with the PMP, visit <https://pharmacypmp.az.gov/>; registration is already required by Arizona law.
2. Carefully read the new law, SB 1283 (<https://apps.azleg.gov/BillStatus/GetDocumentPdf/442343>) and make sure you understand it.
3. Determine the optimal way to use the PMP in your practice. There are essentially three options:
  - a. Use the PMP independently;
  - b. Use the PMP with a data management program that can assist with analysis, push alerts, automation, etc.; or
  - c. If available, use the PMP with your electronic health record; access to the statewide health information exchange is free for most providers.
4. You may authorize delegates to check the PMP on your behalf; however, they must use a separate log in.
5. The mandate will go into effect on October 1, 2017, but it is advisable to begin using it sooner to minimize disruption.
6. Understand the requirements for checking the PMP:
  - a. Must check PMP for all new patients and continuing quarterly treatment for patients being prescribed an opioid analgesic or benzodiazepine.
  - b. Prior to the prescription being written, prescriber must first review all Schedule II, III or IV medications prescribed for the patient in the proceeding twelve months.
7. Understand the **exceptions** to the requirements:
  - a. The PMP does not need to be checked if the patient is:
    - i. Receiving hospice or palliative care for a serious or chronic illness;
    - ii. Receiving care for cancer, cancer-related illness or condition or dialysis treatment;
    - iii. Being administered the controlled substance;
    - iv. 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;
    - v. Being prescribed the controlled substance for no more than a ten-day period for an invasive medical or dental procedure that results in acute pain;
    - vi. Being prescribed the controlled substance for no more than a ten-day period for an acute injury or a medical or dental disease process diagnosed in an emergency setting that results in acute pain to the patient (does not include back pain);
    - vii. Being prescribed the controlled substance for no more than a five-day period, and the prescriber has already reviewed the PMP within the last thirty days and the patient had not been prescribed a controlled substance previously by another prescriber.
  - b. Practitioners may receive a one-year waiver due to technological limitations.
  - c. Practitioners are not responsible for checking the PMP if they are unable to request or receive data due to system failure.