



September 1, 2022

Sen. Kenneth Bogner – Chair
Economic Affairs Interim Committee
Montana Legislature
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, Montana 59620-1706

RE: 2022 Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR) Interim Report

Dear Chair Bogner:

On behalf of the Montana Board of Pharmacy (Board), this interim report is an update on the Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR), pursuant to Montana Code Annotated ([MCA 37-7-1514](#)). The Board administers and maintains the MPDR and is administratively attached to the Department of Labor & Industry (Department).

MPDR Overview

The MPDR program was launched in November 2012 and is accessed through a secure online database. MPDR collects a list of controlled substance prescriptions prescribed to patients and reported by pharmacies and allows authorized health care providers to access the information as a tool for improving patient safety. MPDR information may also be used to identify possible misuse and/or diversion of controlled substances. The MPDR website is: <http://www.mpdr.mt.gov>

Legislative Audit and New Vendor

In March 2021, the MPDR program transitioned to a new vendor Bamboo Health, formerly known as Appriss Health. This new software system includes enhanced functionality and tools that help satisfy the 9 recommendations from the legislative audit findings in June 2019. In June 2021, the Legislative Audit Committee reviewed the final follow-up report, [Information Systems Audit Follow-Up \(21SP-01\): The Montana Prescription Drug Registry \(orig. 18DP-01\)](#).

Completed Projects

- Transition to a new software system in March 2021 with the following tools:
 - PMP AWARe for Prescription History Searches
 - MyRx Search – Prescribers can see a list of prescriptions attributed to their DEA number.
 - Clinical Patient Alerts – Unsolicited reports of patients exceeding safety thresholds pursuant to CDC guidelines and Administrative Rules of Montana ([ARM 24.174.1706](#)).
 - Prescriber Reports – An individualized report comparing prescribing patterns to peers.
 - PMP Clearinghouse for Dispenser Data Submission
 - Weekly compliance monitoring for pharmacies submitting prescription data.
 - Enhanced data validation tools.
 - Prescription submission error notification and correction.
 - PMP Gateway for Workflow Integration of MPDR Data

- Allows one-click access to MPDR information in a user's workflow through an authorized Health Information System (HIS) to improve access and search result timelines.
- HIS technology includes electronic health record systems, health information exchanges, or pharmacy dispensing systems.
- MPDR registration status connected with the Department's licensing database (Accela):
 - Allows for MPDR registration status to be viewed on a license and through the licensee lookup.
 - Allows for targeted education and outreach for registration compliance

Ongoing priorities

- State-wide funding of MPDR integration
 - Currently, PMP Gateway service fees are covered through a collaboration with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) using CDC Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) federal grant funds for all Montana prescribers and pharmacists connected via integration through August 2024.
 - Fifty-one medical facilities and 103 pharmacies have connected through MPDR integration. MPDR continues to work on integration with additional facilities including Big Sky Care Connect, Montana's health information exchange.
- Engagement of the MPDR Advisory Group
 - Meetings were held in February and December 2021 to review current and upcoming MPDR functionality.
 - The next meeting will be in the fall of 2022, then yearly.
- Collaboration with Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Indian Health Services (IHS)
 - Both entities continue to voluntarily submit prescription information to the MPDR.
 - MPDR access is allowed for out-of-state licensees working at these facilities located in Montana.
 - VHA is currently integrated with the MPDR, IHS integration is in development.
- Ongoing education and outreach to increase compliance with MPDR requirements established in the 2019 legislative session
 - **Mandatory Registration and Fee Payment:** Effective October 1, 2019, all Montana licensees authorized to prescribe or dispense prescription drugs are required to register with the MPDR, [MCA 37-7-1503](#), and pay the annual \$30 MPDR fee at the time of license renewal, [MCA 37-7-1511](#).
 - **Prescriber Mandatory Use:** Effective July 1, 2021, a prescriber, or an agent of the prescriber, is required to search a patient's MPDR record before issuing a prescription for an opioid or a benzodiazepines to the patient, except in certain circumstances, [MCA 37-7-1515](#).

MPDR Access

Access to MPDR information is limited to the following:

- Prescribers: Physicians, physician assistants, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, naturopathic physicians, and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) with prescriptive authority
- Pharmacists
- Authorized agents (delegates) who search on behalf of a prescriber/pharmacist
- Authorized representatives of Medicaid, Medicare, VHA, IHS, and Tribal Health
- Law enforcement pursuant to a subpoena
- Professional licensing boards investigating drug misuse or diversion
- Individuals who request a copy of their own prescription history
- Authorized Board staff for administrative purposes

MPDR Statistics

- Over 5.2 million prescriptions are in the MPDR database covering a 3-year time frame.
- An average of 90,000 prescription histories are searched each month.
- Interstate data sharing is available with 29 states, including all border states and the Military Health System.
- As of August 2022, 7,923 authorized users are registered of 16,666 eligible for access (47.5%).
 - For authorized users located in Montana, 5,301 are registered of 7,893 (67%).
 - Registration percentages by license type located in Montana:
 - Physicians (including resident and compact licenses) 58.3% (1,823 of 3,126)
 - Dentists 64.3% (463 of 720)
 - Optometrists 47.7% (96 of 201)
 - Podiatrists 61.5% (32 of 52)
 - Naturopathic Physicians 55.7% (53 of 95)
 - Physician Assistants 68.4% (573 of 837)
 - APRN with prescriptive authority 70% (1,002 of 1,431)
 - Pharmacists 87.9% (1,259 of 1,431)

Improved MPDR statistical analysis is now available with the transition to Bamboo Health, including the top ten prescribed medications by generic name and strength. For additional details, please see the attached MPDR June 2022 Quarterly Statistics report.

MPDR Funding

- MPDR is funded through a MPDR annual fee collected from prescribers and pharmacists at the time of license renewal, [MCA 37-7-1511](#). Federal grant funds were utilized in combination with fees until 2017.
- Effective in 2019, a \$30 annual fee was established in rule and collected from all Montana licensees authorized to prescribe or dispense prescription medications, [ARM 24.174.1712](#).
- General operating budget is projected to be \$200,000.

On behalf of the Montana Board of Pharmacy, thank you for the opportunity to update the Committee on the MPDR program and improvements in new functionality. For additional information, please contact me at Nikki.Griffis@mt.gov, or 406-841-2240.

Sincerely,

Nikki Griffis, PharmD
Program Manager, Montana Prescription Drug Registry

Enclosure: MPDR June 2022 Quarterly Statistics
CC: Laurie Esau, Commissioner

Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR) June 2022 Quarterly Statistics

(Totals are March 4, 2021 – May 31, 2022, compiled on June 2, 2022)

MPDR Eligibility and Registration					
Category	March	April	May	Total (March 2021- May 2022)	Comments
Total Number of Registered Users (Prescribers and Pharmacists)	7,813 (100)	7,861 (48)	7,912 (51)	7,912	Top 3 registered roles: Physician, Pharmacist, APRN 49.5% (7,912 of 15,990) of eligible users are registered
Total Number of Delegate Accounts	767 (34)	796 (17)	818 (21)	901	Delegate relationships are renewed every September and March.

(Net new numbers per month are in parentheses)

MPDR Search Statistics					
Category	March	April	May	Total (March 2021- May 2022)	Comments
Total Number of Patient History Searches	94,667	87,089	91,220	1,012,423	Top 3 searching roles: Pharmacist, Prescriber Delegate – Unlicensed, Prescriber Delegate – Licensed. (Includes integration searches).
Interstate Data Sharing (Outgoing)	20,463	22,645	35,419	204,530	Top 5 requested PMP: ND, ID, WA, WY & NM MPDR is connected to 29 states, including all border states (OR added in April) and Military Health Systems.
Interstate Data Sharing (Incoming)	1,878,155	1,762,388	1,832,332	11,974,573	Top 5 requesting PMP: V.A., OK, TX, NY, GA
Facilities Connected via Integration				154	103 Pharmacies, 51 Medical Facilities
Total Number of Law Enforcement Subpoenas				135	Online subpoena process began June 7, 2021.
Total Number of Board Investigator or Compliance Requests				29	Online complaint form process began June 7, 2021.
Total Requests for an Individual's Own Registry Information				3	

Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR) June 2022 Statistics

(Totals are March 4, 2021 – May 31, 2022, compiled on June 2, 2022)

MPDR Dispensation Statistics						
Category	March	April	May	Total (March 2021- May 2022)	Three-year Total	Comments
Number of Prescriptions Reported to the Database	154,594	143,487	140,442	2,201,451	5,213,748	Opioids 46.5% Non-Opioids 53.5% Schedule II – 47.9% Schedule III – 9.1% Schedule IV – 37.8% Schedule V – 5.1%
Total Number of Pharmacies Submitting Prescription Data				556	606	
Total Number of Prescribers				23,607	35,067	

MPDR Dispensation Statistics	
Top 10 Medications by Prescription Count (March 2022 – May 2022)	
By generic drug name	By drug strength
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hydrocodone/APAP 2) Dextroamphetamine/amphetamine 3) Oxycodone 4) Tramadol 5) Zolpidem 6) Clonazepam 7) Methylphenidate 8) Lorazepam 9) Buprenorphine/Naloxone 10) Pregabalin 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Hydrocodone/APAP 5-325 mg 2) Tramadol 50 mg 3) Oxycodone 5 mg 4) Hydrocodone/APAP 10-325 mg 5) Zolpidem 10 mg 6) Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5-325 mg 7) Clonazepam 0.5 mg 8) Buprenorphine/Naloxone 8 mg-2 mg Film 9) Clonazepam 1 mg 10) Lorazepam 0.5 mg