



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR
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BOARD OF PHARMACY
LLOYD K. JESSEN, RPh, JD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 21, 2014

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Members of the 85th General Assembly
Iowa State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Honorable Governor and Members:

Re: Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program

Pursuant to the requirements of section 124.554, subsection 2, of the Iowa Uniform Controlled Substances Act, the Board of Pharmacy (Board) submits the following information.

The Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) provides authorized prescribers and pharmacists with information regarding their patients' use of controlled substances and is used as a tool in determining appropriate prescribing and treatment of patients without fear of contributing to a patient's abuse of or dependence on addictive drugs or diversion of those drugs to illicit use. Iowa pharmacies are required to report to the Iowa PMP all Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances dispensed by the pharmacy to ambulatory patients.

The Iowa PMP became fully operational on March 25, 2009. The cost of initial implementation of the Iowa PMP was paid by federal grant and amounted to \$411,250. Costs since implementation, amounting to approximately \$100,000 annually, provide for the receipt and delivery of pharmacy data and software maintenance. Annual costs are paid from license fees retained by the Board for the support of Board programs and activities. No additional fees or surcharges have been imposed to pay for activities or support of the Iowa PMP.

The Iowa PMP is administered by the Board with the assistance and guidance of an advisory council consisting of governor-appointed pharmacists and prescribers. The advisory council meets as needed to review the progress of the Iowa PMP, the cost of maintaining the Iowa PMP and the benefits of the program, possible enhancements to the program, and information, comments, and suggestions received from program users and members of the public.

The Board and the PMP Advisory Council also review statistics regarding the use of the Iowa PMP by prescribers, pharmacists, and law enforcement or regulatory agents; the number of prescriptions filled each year; the top drugs dispensed in Iowa each year; and indices of

excessive pharmacy-shopping or doctor-shopping for controlled substances. Included with this report are some of the data compiled since the establishment of the Iowa PMP.

The data indicate steady increases in the number of pharmacists and prescribers registering to use the Iowa PMP and in the number of requests for patient prescription history being submitted and used by those authorized users. The data also demonstrate that the prescribing and dispensing of these controlled substances has not been unnecessarily or adversely affected by the implementation of the Iowa PMP. The number of prescriptions dispensed and the number of doses dispensed increased modestly during each year of the program and the number of patients obtaining prescriptions from multiple prescribers and multiple pharmacies decreased each year.

A number of regulatory and law enforcement agents have also registered to use the Iowa PMP. A member of this user community may receive Iowa PMP data only for an existing investigation or case where there has been a determination of probable cause for the information and the request for prescription information is accompanied by an order, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion. Less than one percent of all processed requests are attributable to law enforcement or regulatory agents but those agents who have used information available from the Iowa PMP report improved efficiency and reduced investigative hours due to the central availability of the prescription information compiled in the Iowa PMP database.

A graphic comparing the top dispensed controlled substances for calendar year 2013 is included. The substances ranking in the top doses dispensed have been fairly consistent since implementation of the Iowa PMP, especially within the top six substances.

Comments received from prescribers and pharmacists using the program indicate that the Iowa PMP is a valuable assistive tool in determining appropriate health care treatment for their patients. A frequent suggestion from users is to provide a means of checking other states' PMP records at the time a query is submitted to the Iowa PMP. Practitioners along Iowa's borders are especially supportive of such a program enhancement. The Board has pre-filed a bill for consideration during the 2014 legislative session that would authorize the Board to enter into data-sharing compacts with border states' PMPs subject to the security provisions of Iowa law.

The Board and the PMP Advisory Council concur, and health professional boards, associations, and societies agree, that the Iowa PMP provides proportionally more value for the health care community and their patients than the program costs and that the Iowa PMP should continue.

Respectfully submitted,



Lloyd K. Jessen, R.Ph., J.D.
Executive Secretary/Director

LKJ:tmw

Attachments

IOWA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM REPORT 2013

DATA COMPILATION

MARCH 26, 2009, TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

| Period: | 3/26/2009 - 12/31/2009 | 1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010 | 1/1/2011 - 12/31/2011 | 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012 | 1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013 | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Total CSA Registrant/Prescribers | 13,074 | 13,472 | 14,008 | 14,547 | 14,891 | |
| Total Iowa Pharmacies* | 939 | 943 | 948 | 942 | 1,520 | |
| Total Iowa-resident Pharmacists | 3,269 | 3,314 | 3,372 | 3,410 | 3,489 | |
| Prescribers Registered | 1,436 | 2,254 | 2,956 | 3,766 | 4,496 | 30.2% |
| Pharmacists Registered | 758 | 1,020 | 1,208 | 1,698 | 2,081 | 59.7% |
| Regulators Registered | 15 | 26 | 28 | 32 | 33 | |
| Law Enforcement Agents Registered | 29 | 65 | 92 | 119 | 152 | |
| Practitioner Agents Registered | - | - | - | 124 | 423 | |
| Prescriber Requests Processed | 16,806 | 44,442 | 71,172 | 104,431 | 129,702 | 72.8% |
| Pharmacist Requests Processed | 5,703 | 7,988 | 8,173 | 12,327 | 48,040 | 27.0% |
| LE/Regulator Requests Processed | 251 | 340 | 423 | 644 | 484 | <0.3% |
| Total # Requests Processed | 22,760 | 52,770 | 79,768 | 117,402 | 178,226 | |
| <i>*beginning 2013, includes nonresident pharmacies; required to report effective 1/1/2013</i> | | | | | | |
| Filled prescriptions for period: | 1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009 | 1/1/2010 - 12/31/2010 | 1/1/2011 - 12/31/2011 | 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012 | 1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013 | |
| # Individual patients filling CII Prescriptions | 198,795 | 297,424 | 322,950 | 332,908 | 425,604 | |
| ...from 5 or more prescribers or pharmacies | 501 | 217 | 249 | 186 | 42 | |
| ...from 10 or more prescribers or pharmacies | 22 | 4 | 7 | 3 | - | |
| ...from 15 or more prescribers or pharmacies | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | |
| # Individual patients filling CII or CIII Prescriptions | 611,040 | 825,693 | 870,441 | 865,412 | 1,026,837 | |
| ...from 5 or more prescribers or pharmacies | 2,270 | 1,360 | 1,313 | 1,072 | 264 | |
| ...from 10 or more prescribers or pharmacies | 171 | 68 | 60 | 31 | 1 | |
| ...from 15 or more prescribers or pharmacies | 40 | 11 | 8 | 2 | - | |
| # Individual patients filling CII, CIII, CIV Prescriptions | 822,577 | 1,170,815 | 1,149,197 | 1,181,762 | 1,447,418 | |
| ...from 5 or more prescribers or pharmacies | 3,293 | 2,016 | 1,769 | 1,576 | 371 | |
| ...from 10 or more prescribers or pharmacies | 232 | 96 | 72 | 49 | 3 | |
| ...from 15 or more prescribers or pharmacies | 57 | 16 | 9 | 2 | - | |
| Total # Prescriptions dispensed for period: | 4,239,890 | 4,442,017 | 4,581,643 | 4,668,502 | 4,679,271 | |
| Total # Doses dispensed for period: | 228,149,732 | 242,691,025 | 253,631,899 | 254,137,229 | 260,092,453 | |



Controlled Substances Prescription Trend (by Doses) - 1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013

