



VIRGINIA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

Background

- Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMPs) are systems in which controlled prescription drug data are collected in a database that is managed by an authorized state agency
- PMPs promote the appropriate use of controlled substances for legitimate medical purposes, while deterring their misuse, abuse, and diversion
- As of June 2009, 39 states had enacted legislation permitting PMPs or had operational PMPs.
- In Virginia, access to the PMP is limited to prescribers, pharmacists, certain authorized law enforcement and regulatory personnel (with an open investigation required) and patients over the age of eighteen (only their own information)
- Aggregate data is available for research and education purposes.



DRUGS COVERED

Schedule II through IV drugs reported to PMP:

- Schedule II drugs include oxycodone, methadone, morphine, Ritalin
- Schedule III drugs include hydrocodone, Vicodin, testosterone, Tylenol with Codeine
- Schedule IV drugs include Valium, Xanax, Darvocet-N100, Ambien

Other Drugs not reported to PMP:

- Schedule V drugs such as Lomotil, Robitussin with Codeine
- Other prescription drugs such as antibiotics, antihypertensives, cardiac, antidepressants, Viagra, Cialis, and birth control pills
- No over-the-counter drugs are reported to PMP



WHAT DATA IS COLLECTED?

Required data elements:

- Recipient's name and address
- Recipient's date of birth
- Covered substance dispensed to the recipient
- Quantity of the covered substance that was dispensed
- Date of the dispensing
- Prescriber's identifier number
- Dispenser's identifier number
- Prescription number

Optional data elements:

- Number of refills authorized by the prescriber
- Number days supply



UPDATE ON BREACH OF PMP

- On April 30, 2009 DHP recognized an unauthorized message posted on the PMP website
- DHP immediately shut down all computer systems to protect the security of its data
- State authorities including VITA and law enforcement were notified
- At the time of system shut-down, all DHP data had been properly backed up
- Back up files had been properly secured, no data was lost



STATUS JUNE 29, 2009

- Ongoing active investigation by the FBI and state police
- No evidence of systems involvement beyond the PMP
- Agency applications gradually restored as VITA security analyses were completed; virtually all systems restored
- Current focus:
 - Completion of transformation and moving all DHP servers to CESC
 - Completion of advanced security measures and PMP upgrades for 24/7 access
 - Removal of SSNs from PMP database; not accept in future
 - Accessibility of upgraded PMP to registered users



NOTIFICATION ACTIONS

- DHP issued statement on potential breach and Q&A on May 6, 2009 (updated June 5, 2009)
- Information regarding steps citizens may take to safeguard against identity theft was posted on DHP's website.
- Additional information was provided to pharmacies in the form of "best practices"
- Individual breach notification was sent to ~530,000 persons and ~2400 registered users whose social security numbers may have been in the PMP database
- All above information is posted on DHP website