

Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)



What healthcare providers should consider when prescribing controlled substances.



Dosage

Healthcare providers should explain to the patient what Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) are and risks associated with exceeding 50 MMEs per day. They should discuss the possibility of tapering/reducing opioids as well as prescribing naloxone for patients taking 50 MME/day or more.



Multiple Providers

Healthcare providers should counsel the patient and coordinate care with their other prescribers to improve patient safety and discuss the need to obtain opioids from a single provider. Check the PDMP each time an opioid is prescribed. Providers should consider tapering or discontinuation of opioids or the use of other non-opioid or non-pharmacologic methods.



Drug Interactions

Healthcare providers should avoid prescribing opioids and benzodiazepines concurrently. There needs to be communication between prescribers to prioritize patient goals and weigh risks of concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine use.



What is a PDMP?

The PDMP is a healthcare tool for clinicians to assist in identifying potential misuse, abuse or diversion of controlled substances by their patients while facilitating the most appropriate and effective medical use of those substances.

PDMPs improve patient safety by allowing clinicians to:

- Identify patients who are obtaining opioids from multiple providers.
- Calculate the total amount of opioids prescribed per day (in MME/day).
- Identify patients who are being prescribed other substances that may increase risk of overdose – such as benzodiazepines.

Checking the PDMP is an important step to improve opioid prescribing practices.



Checking the PDMP is Required.

In Florida, each prescriber or his or her designee has a duty to consult the PDMP system to review a patient's controlled substance dispensing history every time a controlled substance is prescribed or dispensed to a patient age 16 or older unless a statutory exemption applies.

Statutory exemptions include:

- If the patient is less than 16 years of age
- Drug being prescribed is a non-opioid schedule V
- System is not operational*
- Requestor has technological or electrical failure*

Failure to consult the PDMP may result in a non-disciplinary citation by the regulatory board for any initial offense. Any subsequent offense will result in disciplinary action against the prescribing/dispensing practitioner's license.

** If the system is not operational or the requestor has technological or electrical failure and is unable to consult the PDMP, the prescriber must document the reason the system was not consulted and may not prescribe greater than a 3-day supply of a controlled substance to the patient.*



What you should do if you find information about a patient in the PDMP that concerns you:

Patients should not be dismissed from care based on PDMP information. Use the opportunity to provide potentially life-saving information and interventions.

1. Confirm that the information in the PDMP is correct.

Check for potential data entry errors, use of a nickname or maiden name, or possible identity theft to obtain prescriptions. Consult with the patient’s other providers if appropriate.

2. Assess for possible misuse or abuse.

Use a screening process such as SBIRT to assess for possible misuse or abuse with a valid tool: i.e., the Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST). Assess risk with the Opioid Risk Tool (ORT), then partner with a treatment provider for referral when needed.

3. Discuss any areas of concern with your patient and emphasize your interest in their safety.

Entering the patient into a formal pain contract should be considered.



PDMP Facts

- You are allowed unlimited delegates or agents (non-prescribing employees in your practice whom you designated to access the PDMP) to register under your supervision.
- Florida’s PDMP is currently engaged in reciprocal interstate data sharing, making its information available to authorized users in 29 states through-out the north and southeast. Administrators in Pennsylvania and New Jersey approved connectivity with Florida in November 2020.

To register and use the Florida PDMP

Visit this site:
www.e-forcse.com

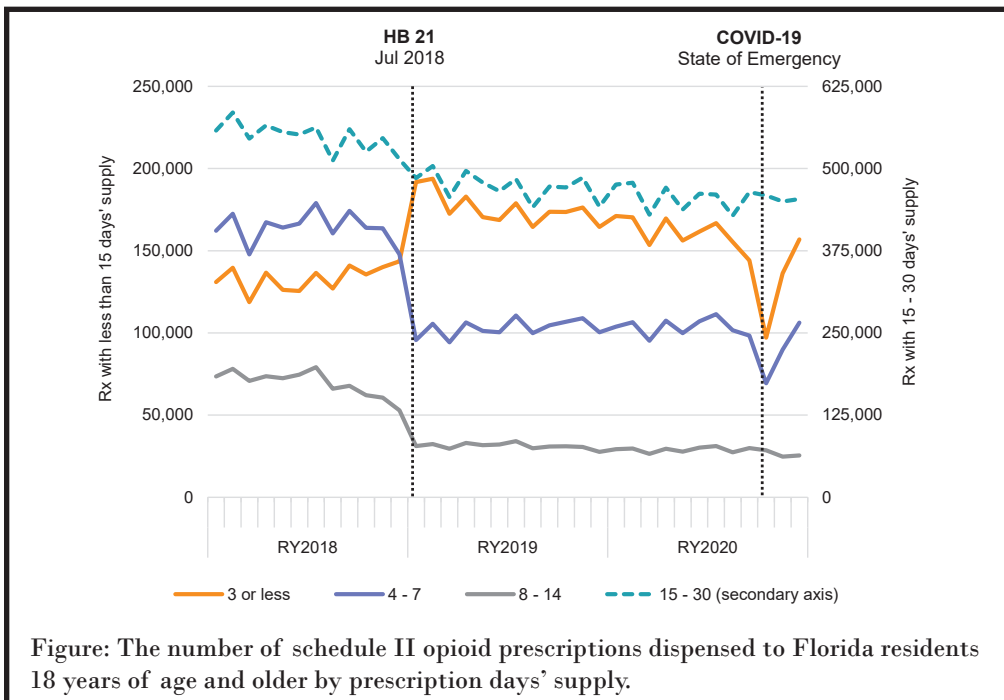


Figure: The number of schedule II opioid prescriptions dispensed to Florida residents 18 years of age and older by prescription days’ supply.



Overdose Data to Action

Substance Misuse & Overdose Prevention

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Florida Health:
The first accredited public health system in the U.S.