

DEPARTMENT: Doylestown Healthcare Partnership	
FACILITY:	
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AUTHOR (ROLE): ADM Director DHP	
APPROVED BY (ROLE): Network Development / DHP Managing Committee	

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for refilling controlled medications.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all Doylestown Healthcare Partnership Providers who prescribe controlled medication.

POLICY:

All patient's prescriptions refill requests should be at the discretion of the prescribing physician.

PROCEDURE:

1. Patients being prescribed controlled medications must have the PDMP queried according to the PDMP Guidelines/ACT 191 of 2014.
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/programs/PDMP/Pages/PDMP.aspx>
 PCMP must be queried for narcotics, benzodiazepines, stimulants, sedative medication when initiating therapy.
2. Patient's requested refills should be sent to pharmacy electronically. Patients must be evaluated at least every 6 months to continue to fill controlled medication refills. All patients on chronic narcotic and benzodiazepine medication will have a controlled substance contract in the EHR.

- a. PDMP needs to be checked at every narcotic and benzodiazepine refill. Stimulants and sleeping medications are required at the initial prescription only and at the discretion of the prescriber.

Commonly Asked Questions/PDMP Website

What are the requirements for prescribers regarding the use of the PA PDMP?

Per [Act 191 of 2014](#), lawfully authorized prescribers are required to query the PDMP for an existing patient when the following clinical situations apply:

1. For each patient the first time the patient is prescribed a controlled substance by the prescriber for purposes of establishing a baseline and a thorough medical record; or
2. If a prescriber believes or has reason to believe, using sound clinical judgment, that a patient may be abusing or diverting drugs; or
3. Each time a patient is prescribed an opioid drug product or benzodiazepine by the prescriber.

These requirements apply (1) to inpatient or outpatient settings; to acute or anticipated chronic controlled substance(s) prescriptions; to new or established patients; and in situations where the prescriber is seeing his/her own patient or is covering for a colleague. Writing a controlled substance(s) prescription for the first time to a patient is the basis for checking the PDMP in (1) above.

However, as part of good clinical practice, the Department of Health recommends that health care professionals check the system every time before a controlled substance(s) is prescribed or dispensed in any clinical setting.

Do prescribers need to query the PDMP system every time they prescribe a new controlled substance medication for a patient?

Yes, if it's a new prescription for that patient, the prescriber is required to check the PA PDMP system.

If a prescriber is switching a patient's controlled substance medication to a different but similar one, does the prescriber need to query the system?

Yes, if it's a new prescription for that patient, the prescriber should check the PA PDMP system.

Do prescribers need to query the PDMP system every time they prescribe an opioid or benzodiazepine, even if the patient has signed a controlled substance agreement in clinic and is seen regularly?

Yes. As of January 1, 2017, each time a patient is prescribed an opioid or a benzodiazepine, the PDMP is required to be queried.

Are prescribers required to query the PDMP system when prescribing a dosage change or refill for an opioid or benzodiazepine?

Yes. As of January 1, 2017, each time a patient is prescribed an opioid or a benzodiazepine, the PA PDMP system is required to be queried.

Are prescribers required to query the PA PDMP system when prescribing a dosage change or refill for a controlled substance other than an opioid or benzodiazepine?

No. Query is not required when prescribing a dosage change or refill of non-opioid, non-benzodiazepine controlled substances previously prescribed to the patient by the prescriber.

Does a prescriber need to record information from the PA PDMP system into the electronic medical record?

Yes, there are two situations in which a prescriber needs to record information from the PA PDMP system into the medical record.

[Act 191 of 2014](#) states that a prescriber shall indicate the information obtained from the system in the patient's medical record if:

1. The individual is a new patient; or
2. The prescriber determines a drug should not be prescribed or furnished to a patient based upon the information from the system.

This documentation could be as simple as, "Checked the PA PDMP; no red flags identified; safe to proceed with prescription," or "Checked the PA PDMP; opted not to prescribe a narcotic after determining patient had filled six prescriptions from four different prescribers over the past five weeks. Discussed findings with patient."

Reviewed:

Revised: