

# PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAMS (PDMPs)

## Checking the PDMP: An Important Step to Improving Opioid Prescribing Practices

### WHAT IS A PDMP?

A PDMP is a statewide electronic database that tracks all controlled substance prescriptions. Authorized users can access prescription data such as medications dispensed and doses.

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 opioids—such as benzodiazepines.

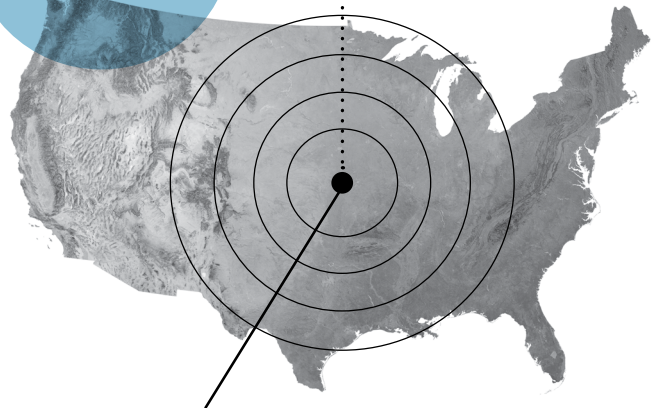
Improving the way opioids are prescribed will ensure patients have access to safer, more effective chronic pain treatment while reducing opioid misuse, abuse, and overdose. Checking your state's PDMP is an important step in safer prescribing of these drugs.



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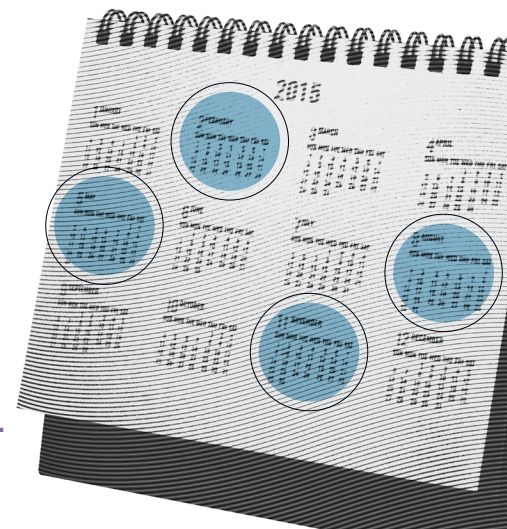
prescriptions for opioids were written by healthcare providers in 2013



enough prescriptions for every American adult to have a bottle of pills

### WHEN SHOULD I CHECK THE PDMP?

State requirements vary, but CDC recommends checking at least once every **3 months** and consider checking **prior to every opioid prescription.**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

LEARN MORE | [www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html)

