



<b>DATE:</b>	08/09/2016
<b>TO:</b>	Health Alert Network
<b>FROM:</b>	Dr. Karen Murphy, Secretary of Health
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Pennsylvania's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	Statewide
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Statewide
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	n/a
<b>COUNTY:</b>	n/a
<b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>	n/a
<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	n/a

**This transmission is a "Health Advisory": provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.**

**HOSPITALS:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING, AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL

**EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Welcome to [Pennsylvania's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#)

Pennsylvania is in the midst of a public health epidemic.

Opioid and heroin abuse has killed too many thousands of Pennsylvanians. In fact, in 2015, nearly 3,400 Pennsylvanians died from a drug overdose. That means these overdoses killed almost nine Pennsylvanians every day.



In an effort to empower medical professionals to identify patients struggling with addiction, the Wolf Administration is **launching a new Prescription Drug Monitoring Program** (PA [PDMP](#))

Registration for the PA PDMP opened on **Aug. 8, 2016**. A registration link to PMP AWARxE (PA PDMP system) is now available on the PA PDMP website. Once you have registered, the PA PDMP system will be ready for query starting on **Aug. 25, 2016**.

Registration is a straightforward process. Beginning **Aug. 8**, you will be able to register to use the PA PDMP. **You will also be able to grant access to delegates** employed by you or under your supervision to check the system on your behalf. To learn more [about who can be your delegate](#), please visit the PA PDMP website.

On the PA PDMP website, you will also find **tutorials on how to register you and your delegates for the PA PDMP**.

**Registering for the PA PDMP is the critical first step to accessing valuable clinical information to better care for your patients.**

The PA PDMP will increase the quality of patient care by giving prescribers and pharmacists access to their patients' controlled substance prescription history. All schedule II – V prescriptions dispensed to outpatients are collected by the PA PDMP within 72 hours of having been dispensed.

The PA PDMP will give you access to crucial information to help spot the warning signs of addiction, doctor shopping and drug diversion. Most importantly, you will be able to identify patients struggling with substance use disorder, so that you can **help them get the treatment** they need.

**We are in a crisis.  
We need your help.  
With the PA PDMP, we can fight this.**

Prescribers are **required by law** to search the PDMP for each patient before the patient is prescribed a controlled substance by the prescriber for the first time and/or when there is clinical concern the patient may be suffering from the disease of addiction. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) also recommends that you check the system every time you prescribe or dispense a controlled substance.

Pennsylvania needs your help! Together, we can save thousands of Pennsylvanians from opioid abuse, heroin use and overdose death.

Please visit the PA PDMP [website](#) for the latest updates on the program. The site offers a general Q&A page, more details for dispensers and prescribers, and contact information for the PA PDMP office.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of August 9, 2016, but may be modified in the future.