January 30, 2017

The Honorable Eric Esser
Acting Secretary, Department of Safety and Professional Services
State of Wisconsin
Department of Safety and Professional Services
PO Box 8935
Madison, WI  53708-8935

Dear Secretary Esser,

On March 17, 2016, 2015 Wisconsin Act 267 was enacted providing reporting requirements for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). On behalf of the Controlled Substance Board, I am pleased to provide you and the Department with a copy of the second quarterly report.

I would like to thank Department staff for their extensive work to create the current report and look forward to working with staff as we continue to improve the PDMP functionality and reporting.

This report will be a valuable tool for those around the state who are interested in promoting the health, safety and well-being of Wisconsin residents. If you receive any questions or comments about the report please forward them to the Controlled Substance Board so we can improve the report as necessary.

Sincerely,

Doug Englebert
Chair, Wisconsin Controlled Substance Board
Contact Information

Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board
Chairperson: Doug Englebert

Members:
Englebert, Doug, Chairperson  
DHS Designated Member
Bloom, Alan, Vice Chairperson  
Pharmacologist
Bellay, Yvonne M., Secretary  
DATCP Designated Member
LaDien, Franklin "Rocky"  
Pharmacy Board Representative
Barman, Subhadeep  
Psychiatrist
Kallio, Peter J  
Board of Nursing Representative
Pietz, Wendy M.  
Dentistry Board Representative
Smith, Jason  
Attorney General Designee
Westlake, Timothy W.  
Medical Board Representative

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services

1400 E Washington Ave  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-266-2112  
DSPS@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

PDMP@wisconsin.gov
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Introduction

The Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was deployed in June 2013. It is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) pursuant to the regulations and policies established by the Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board (CSB). Since being deployed, the PDMP primarily has been a tool to help healthcare professionals make more informed decisions about prescribing and dispensing controlled substance prescription drugs to patients. It also discloses data as authorized by law to governmental and law enforcement agencies.

At the end of December 2016, the PDMP stored over 48 million prescription records submitted by over 2,000 pharmacies and dispensing practitioners. Over 19,000 prescribers, pharmacists, and their delegates had performed over 4.1 million queries for patient prescription reports. The number of queries performed by healthcare users per day has steadily risen, with an average of almost 5,000 queries performed each day.

Pursuant to ss. 961.385 (5) – (6), Wis. Stats., the CSB is required to submit a report to DSPS about the PDMP. This report is intended to satisfy that requirement. It includes information related to each of the following topics identified in the law:

- The satisfaction with the program of pharmacists, pharmacies, practitioners, and other users of the program.
- The program's impact on referrals of pharmacists, pharmacies, and practitioners to licensing or regulatory boards for discipline and to law enforcement agencies for investigation and possible prosecution.
- An assessment of the trends and changes in the use of monitored prescription drugs in this state.
- The number of practitioners, by profession, and pharmacies submitting records to the board under the program in the previous quarter.
- A description of the number, frequency, and nature of submissions by law enforcement agencies under s. 961.37 (3) (a) in the previous quarter.
- A description of the number, frequency, and nature of requests made in the previous quarter for disclosure of records generated under the program.
- The number of individuals receiving prescription orders from 5 or more practitioners or having monitored prescription drugs dispensed by 5 or more pharmacies within the same 90-day period at any time over the course of the program.
- The number of individuals receiving daily morphine milligram equivalents of 1 to 19 milligrams, 20 to 49 milligrams, 50 to 99 milligrams, and 100 or more milligrams in the previous quarter.
- The number of individuals to whom both opioids and benzodiazepines were dispensed within the same 90-day period at any time over the course of the program.
On January 17, 2017, DSPS launched the first release of an enhanced PDMP (ePDMP) system. The primary emphasis of the new system’s design is value-added clinical workflow integration, improved data quality capabilities for both searching and reporting, and maximized public health and public safety use. It will also be capable of compiling all of the data required for future reports.
User Satisfaction

DSPS did not conduct a user satisfaction survey this quarter. All available PDMP resources were dedicated to preparing for the launch of the Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program on January 17, 2017. DSPS intends to conduct a user survey in late in Q1 2017, after users are able to get more familiar with the WI ePDMP.
Impact on Referrals for Investigation

Between October 1 and December 31, 2016, the Controlled Substances Board did not make any referrals for possible investigation and disciplinary action pursuant to s. 961.385 (2) (f), Wis. Stats.
Monitored Prescription Drug Use Trend\textsuperscript{1}

The amount of monitored prescription drugs, and opioids in particular, dispensed between October 1 and December 31, 2016 is less than the amount dispensed during the same period in 2015.

During the fourth quarter 2016, the total number of monitored drug prescriptions dispensed was 2,461,013, and the number of monitored drug doses dispensed was 147,232,485. During the fourth quarter 2015, the total number of monitored drug prescriptions dispensed was 2,675,609, and the number of monitored drug doses dispensed was 162,037,077. The number of dispensed prescriptions for a monitored prescription drug this quarter is approximately 8% less than the same quarter in 2015. Similarly, the number of dispensed doses for a monitored prescription drug this quarter is approximately 9% less than the same period in 2015.

In addition to the year-over-year decrease, Figure 1 shows that the number of controlled substance prescriptions dispensed during the fourth quarter of 2016 is less than the number of controlled substance prescriptions dispensed during the third quarter of 2016. The approximate 1% decrease from the third quarter is small, but the trend is noteworthy considering that the number of controlled substance prescriptions dispensed during the fourth quarter of 2015 had increased by approximately 1% from the third quarter of 2015.

\textbf{Figure 1: Controlled Substance Prescriptions Dispensed}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure1}
\caption{Controlled Substance Prescriptions Dispensed}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{1} The data presented in this section are from the records of the PDMP as of January 15, 2017. Because the PDMP is an accumulation of records submitted to it by pharmacies and other dispensers, the data are subject to correction and revision as the PDMP receives new data.
While there was a reduction in the volume of monitored prescription drugs dispensed, there has been little change in the 15 most dispensed monitored prescription drugs since 2015. The tables below show the top 15 most dispensed monitored prescription drugs during the fourth quarter of 2016 and the top 15 most dispensed monitored prescription drugs during the same quarter in 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Prescriptions</th>
<th>Quantity Dispensed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HYDROCODONE/ACETAMINOPHEN</td>
<td>372,352</td>
<td>21,296,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEXTROAMPHETAMINE/AMPHETAMINE</td>
<td>206,564</td>
<td>9,909,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAMADOL HCL</td>
<td>191,366</td>
<td>14,600,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OXYPHENTONE HCL</td>
<td>184,668</td>
<td>15,789,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALPRAZOLAM</td>
<td>167,835</td>
<td>9,886,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LORAZEPAM</td>
<td>165,282</td>
<td>8,089,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLONAZEPAM</td>
<td>137,208</td>
<td>8,202,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OXYPHENTONE HCL/ACETAMINOPHEN</td>
<td>137,170</td>
<td>9,208,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE</td>
<td>133,701</td>
<td>4,452,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METHYLPHENIDATE HCL</td>
<td>99,441</td>
<td>5,008,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISEXAMFETAMINE DIMESYLATE</td>
<td>79,031</td>
<td>2,496,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORPHINE SULFATE</td>
<td>69,173</td>
<td>4,032,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIAZEPAM</td>
<td>64,973</td>
<td>2,833,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREGABALIN</td>
<td>57,716</td>
<td>4,389,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACETAMINOPHEN WITH CODEINE</td>
<td>49,230</td>
<td>2,270,938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top 15 dispensed monitored prescription drugs accounted for over 83% of all monitored prescription drug doses dispensed during the fourth quarter of 2016.
The top 15 dispensed monitored prescription drugs accounted for nearly 84% of all monitored prescription drug doses dispensed during the fourth quarter of 2015.

Additionally, there was a more than 11% reduction in the number of opioid prescription orders issued and an over 13% reduction in the volume of opioid doses dispensed when comparing the data of the fourth quarters of 2015 and 2016.

### Top 15 Monitored Prescription Drugs Dispensed During Q4 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Name</th>
<th>Prescriptions</th>
<th>Quantity Dispensed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HYDROCODONE/ACETAMINOPHEN</td>
<td>437,777</td>
<td>25,253,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEXTROAMPHETAMINE/AMPHETAMINE</td>
<td>222,182</td>
<td>10,558,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OXYCODONE HCL</td>
<td>203,794</td>
<td>17,958,889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAMADOL HCL</td>
<td>202,385</td>
<td>15,693,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALPRAZOLAM</td>
<td>181,818</td>
<td>10,885,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LORAZEPAM</td>
<td>178,081</td>
<td>8,792,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OXYCODONE HCL/ACETAMINOPHEN</td>
<td>162,279</td>
<td>10,804,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE</td>
<td>148,965</td>
<td>4,914,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLONAZEPAM</td>
<td>147,046</td>
<td>8,809,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METHYLPHENIDATE HCL</td>
<td>101,919</td>
<td>5,167,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORPHINE SULFATE</td>
<td>78,016</td>
<td>4,725,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIAZEPAM</td>
<td>73,091</td>
<td>3,297,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISDEXAMFETAMINE DIMESYLATE</td>
<td>65,093</td>
<td>2,075,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREGABALIN</td>
<td>56,373</td>
<td>4,290,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACETAMINOPHEN WITH CODEINE</td>
<td>55,781</td>
<td>2,650,320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Amount of Opioid Prescriptions and Opioid Doses Dispensed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Opioid Prescription Orders</th>
<th>Quantity Dispensed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 Q4</td>
<td>1,261,095</td>
<td>82,874,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Q4</td>
<td>1,113,233</td>
<td>71,850,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>(147,962)</td>
<td>(11,023,988)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Decrease</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The PDMP system used to provide data for this report identified the classes of prescriptions using the following AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic Classifications:

**Opioids:**

- 280808: Opiate Agonists
- 280812: Opiate Partial Agonist
Data Submissions

Between October 1 and December 31, 2016, 1,699 dispensers submitted 2,631,792 records to the PDMP. Of those dispensers, approximately 83% were located in Wisconsin, while 17% were located outside of Wisconsin. Approximately 89% of the dispensers were pharmacies, while the remaining 11% of the dispensers were dispensing practitioners. The profession of the dispensing practitioners was not reported in a consistent manner in the PDMP system used to provide data for this report but will be available in future reports based on the enhancements being made to the PDMP application.
Law Enforcement Reports

Between October 1 and December 31, 2016, 112 different Wisconsin law enforcement agencies submitted 821 reports to the PDMP as required by s. 961.37 (3) (a), Wis. Stat. The law requires the agencies to submit a report in each of the following situations:

1. When a law enforcement officer receives a report of a stolen controlled substance prescription.
2. When a law enforcement officer reasonably suspects that a violation of the Controlled Substances Act involving a prescribed drug is occurring or has occurred.
3. When a law enforcement officer believes someone is undergoing or has immediately prior experienced an opioid-related drug overdose.
4. When a law enforcement officer believes someone died as a result of using a narcotic drug.

Figures 2-3 show the breakdown of the reports submitted to the PDMP by type and by month.

![Figure 2: Law Enforcement Reports to the PDMP, Q4 2016](image-url)
Figure 3: Law Enforcement Reports to the PDMP, Q4 2016

- Report of Stolen CS Rx
- Suspected CSA Violation
- Suspected Opioid-Related Overdose
- Suspected Narcotic-Related Death
Disclosure of PDMP Data

Between October 1, 2016, and December 31, 2016, healthcare users made 431,209 patient queries. The total number of patient queries by healthcare users has steadily increased since the program became operational in June 2013, as seen in Figure 4.

The daily average of queries by healthcare users also reflects a steady increase, as seen in Figure 5.
Figures 6 and 7 show the breakdown by profession of patient queries by prescribers, pharmacists, and prescriber/pharmacist delegates for this quarter.

Authorized individuals from non-healthcare groups made 216 requests for PDMP data this quarter. The breakdown among authorized non-healthcare groups can be seen in Figure 8.
Figure 8: Other Authorized Requests, Q4 2016

- Law Enforcement: 75%
- Medical Examiner/Coroner: 14%
- Government: 11%
- Patient: 0%
Doctor Shopping and Pharmacy Hopping

The PDMP system used to provide data for this report was capable of calculating the number of individuals who received prescription orders from five or more prescribers and had those prescriptions dispensed by five or more pharmacies between October 1 and December 31, 2016.

According to the records submitted to the PDMP by pharmacies and other dispensers, 285 individuals obtained five or more prescription orders for a monitored prescription drug and had those drugs dispensed by five or more pharmacies this quarter.

One individual obtained prescription orders from 17 different prescribers between October 1 and December 31, 2016. Four individuals obtained monitored prescription drugs at 9 different pharmacies.

Based on its improved data-quality capabilities and analytics, the ePDMP application will be able to alert providers about patients that meet doctor-shopping and pharmacy-hopping thresholds in real-time.
Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME)

The PDMP system used to provide data for this report was not capable of calculating morphine milligram equivalent doses of opioid drugs. However, pursuant to the authority provided in 2015 Act 267, DSPS included advanced data analytic functionalities in the scope and design of the new Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP) system. The ePDMP was launched on January 17, 2017. DSPS will use the enhanced data quality capabilities of the new system to fulfill the requirements of this section in retrospect and in all new reports.
Opioid-Benzodiazepine Overlap

The PDMP system used to provide data for this report was capable of identifying the number of individuals to whom at least one opioid prescription and at least one benzodiazepine prescription were dispensed between October 1 and December 31, 2016. This does not necessarily mean that the prescriptions overlapped. It only means that at some point in the quarter the patient received an opioid prescription and that at some point in the quarter the same patient received a benzodiazepine prescription.

The PDMP system used to provide data for this report identified the classes of prescriptions using the following AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic Classifications:

**Opioids:**
- 280808: Opiate Agonists
- 280812: Opiate Partial Agonists

**Benzodiazepines:**
- 281208: Benzodiazepines (Anticonvulsants)
- 282408: Benzodiazepines (Anxiolytics, Sedatives, and Hypnotics)

According to the records submitted to the PDMP by pharmacies and other dispensers, 477,255 individuals received an opioid prescription and 276,366 individuals received a benzodiazepine prescription this quarter. Approximately 95,590 individuals received both an opioid prescription and a benzodiazepine prescription between October 1 and December 31, 2016.

Based on its improved data-quality capabilities and analytics, the forthcoming ePDMP application will be able to alert providers about patients that have overlapping benzodiazepine and opioid prescriptions as a standard function of the patient report.