

New program will give you better care

Starting January 2012, the Washington Prescription Monitoring Program, referred to as Prescription Review, will help your doctor and pharmacist give you better care by managing your prescriptions.

What is Prescription Review?

Prescription Review is a secure online database that will be used across Washington State to improve public health. All practitioners are able to review their patient's health information before they prescribe or dispense drugs. All clinics and provider offices will be connected to this centralized system. It will allow them to communicate with one another and look for duplicate prescribing, possible misuse, drug interactions, and other potential concerns.

Who can access the data?

Physicians, pharmacists, dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other licensed clinicians and professionals authorized by the Washington State Department of Health. The system is secure to make sure confidential information is protected.

Is this new?

It's a new program for Washington, but not new for the country. Most states already have this program, including our neighbors in Idaho and Oregon.

What drugs are covered?

At this time, this program only covers controlled substances (drugs that could potentially be dangerous and addictive). This includes certain tranquilizers, stimulants, and pain relievers.

Does this mean I can't get certain medicines?

You will still get the medicines you need. Prescription Review helps providers give better care.

Programs like Prescription Review protect you and your loved ones, so you can get the medicines you need. It's about your safety and giving you the best care possible.



Did you know?

- Washington State has one of the highest rates of deaths from drug overdose in the whole country.¹
- The increase in drug overdose death rates is largely because of prescription opioid painkillers.[†]
- Every day in the United States, 2,500 teenagers use a prescription drug to get high for the first time.²
- 12 to 17 year olds abuse prescription drugs more than they abuse heroin, crack/cocaine, ecstasy, and methamphetamine combined.³
- The number of deaths from prescription drug overdoses is more than heroin and cocaine combined.⁴

Why is it important?

Medicine misuse is one of the fastest growing health concerns in the country. Prescription Review helps protect you and your loved ones, increases the quality of your care, decreases health care costs, decreases crime, and protects your future.

Whether it's the elderly having a hard time remembering all their medications, or drugs getting into the hands of kids and teens, it's an important public health problem that we can help prevent.

What information is included?

Information includes your name, address, date of birth, prescribed drug, doctor who prescribed it, and where you picked it up.

For more information, please visit the state's Prescription Monitoring Program website at: www.doh.wa.gov/PublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionsandFacilities/PrescriptionMonitoringProgramPMP.aspx.

Is my privacy protected?

Yes. The Prescription Review is HIPAA^{††} compliant. It has built-in security features designed to protect your information. Only professionals and licensed providers authorized by the department can access your personal prescription records. Law enforcement can only get a copy of your Prescription Review record for a specific investigation.

For more information visit the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) website at www.doh.wa.gov/PublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/HealthcareProfessionsandFacilities/PrescriptionMonitoringProgramPMP.aspx, or contact the PMP Director at 360-236-4806 or prescriptionmonitoring@doh.wa.gov.

¹ CDC's Issue Brief: Unintentional Drug Poisoning in the United States. Website accessed September 6, 2011: www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Poisoning/brief_full_page.htm

² Prescription Drug Abuse: Not in My House. The Partnership at Drugfree.org. Website accessed September 6, 2011: <http://notinmyhouse.drugfree.org/>

³ Ibid

⁴ National Vital Statistics, 2007.

[†] The most common drug categories are cocaine, heroin, and opioid painkillers. Opioids are synthetic versions of opium. Can reduce pain but when taken in excess, can also suppress breathing and lead to death.

^{††} The Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a privacy rule that protects the privacy of individuals' health information.