



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

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Prescription Monitoring Program Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2015-2016

July 1, 2016

Introduction

Act 676 of the 2006 Louisiana Legislature authorized the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of an electronic system for the monitoring of controlled substances and other drugs of concern that are dispensed within the state or dispensed by a licensed pharmacy outside the state to an address within the state. The goal of the program is to improve the state's ability to identify and inhibit the diversion of controlled substances and drugs of concern in an efficient and cost-effective manner and in a manner that shall not impede the appropriate utilization of these drugs for legitimate medical purposes.

The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) was implemented in August 2008. We notified pharmacies of their requirement to report all eligible prescription transactions to the program, and further, required them to report all historical data retroactive to June 1, 2008 no later than December 31, 2008. In December 2008, the Board notified all prescribers and dispensers wishing to acquire direct access privileges of the requirement to complete the web-based orientation program prior to receiving their access privileges. The web portal to the program database was opened to queries on January 1, 2009, and the program remains fully functional.

The initial vendor selected pursuant to the original public bid in 2008 was Health Information Designs, Inc. from Auburn, AL. When that contract was re-bid in 2013, the successful bidder was Optimum Technology, Inc. from Columbus, OH. In 2015, that firm was acquired by Appriss, Inc. based in Louisville, KY. During Fiscal Year 2015-2016, Appriss transitioned the Louisiana program from the Optimum Technology platform to its own Aware platform. Among other benefits will be an enhanced reporting capability.

Advisory Council

The enabling legislation created the PMP Advisory Council to assist the Board in the development and operation of the program. The Board shall seek, and the advisory council shall provide, information and advice regarding: (1) which controlled substances should be monitored, (2) which drugs of concern demonstrate a potential for abuse and should be monitored, (3) design and implementation of educational courses required by the PMP law, (4) methodology to be used for analysis and interpretation of prescription monitoring information, (5) design and implementation of a program evaluation component, and (6) identification of potential additional members to the advisory council. The original legislation specifically identified the 25 organizations named to the council and further, named the leader of the organization but permitted the leader to name a designee to function in the absence of the appointee. The organizations represented on the council include the licensing agencies for the prescribers and dispensers, the professional membership organizations for the prescribers and dispensers, organizations representing federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as representatives from the legislature. The advisory council has elected its own leadership, adopted policies and procedures for its operations, and meets on a quarterly basis.

The council actively reviews the program's operations and makes recommendations for the improvement of the program. Those recommendations are forwarded to the Board of Pharmacy, resulting in regulatory or legislative initiatives designed to implement the council's recommendations.

Legislative Mandates

The 2014 Legislature adopted a number of measures which will serve to improve the program. Beginning August 1, 2014, pharmacies and other dispensers will be required to report their eligible prescription transactions to the program database no later than the next business day following the date of dispensing, instead of the previous seven day allowance. In addition, the Board has recently completed the rulemaking process authorized by the 2013 Legislature that will allow authorized prescribers and dispensers to appoint delegates for the purpose of retrieving data from the program's database.

The 2015 Legislature also adopted a measure that will require prescribers of certain controlled substances for the treatment of certain conditions to access the patient's history in the program database prior to initiating such treatment. The same measure will require pharmacists dispensing certain controlled substances to certain patients to access the patient's history in the program database prior to dispensing such medications.

Program Highlights

- August 2015 – began sharing information with Arkansas and Mississippi.
- October 2015 – enabled Kroger Pharmacies through the Gateway program.
- March 2016 – began sharing information with South Carolina.
- April 2016 – began sharing information with Connecticut.
- June 2016 – migrated program to the Aware platform operated by Appriss.

Program Metrics

The data on the following page provides summary data for the operational aspects of the program – number of prescription transactions reported to the program database, number of prescribers and dispensers and their delegates registered to access the program data, the number of queries performed by those authorized prescribers and dispensers and their delegates as well as law enforcement agencies and regulatory agencies, and finally, the average number of queries per day.

Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
Prescription Monitoring Program

Calendar Year:	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>6/30/2016</u>
Prescription Database:									
Transactions Reported (in Millions)	6.015	11.144	12.117	12.775	12.99	13.032	13.02	12.403	6.074
Access to Program Data:									
New prescribers registered:		1,526	721	548	574	640	1,093	958	350
<i>Total prescribers registered:</i>		<i>1,526</i>	<i>2,247</i>	<i>2,795</i>	<i>3,369</i>	<i>4,009</i>	<i>5,102</i>	<i>6,060</i>	<i>6,410</i>
New prescriber delegates registered:							473	709	153
<i>Total prescriber delegates registered:</i>							<i>473</i>	<i>1,182</i>	<i>1335</i>
New pharmacists registered:		728	483	361	494	509	466	418	180
<i>Total pharmacists registered:</i>		<i>728</i>	<i>1,211</i>	<i>1,572</i>	<i>2,066</i>	<i>2,575</i>	<i>3,041</i>	<i>3,459</i>	<i>3,639</i>
New pharmacist delegates registered:							143	236	70
<i>Total pharmacist delegates registered:</i>							<i>143</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>449</i>
Searches Performed by Users:									
Solicited by prescribers:		235,985	368,376	496,270	650,514	842,139	942,733	1,178,446	608,149
Solicited by prescriber delegates:							26,993	269,147	212,933
Solicited by pharmacists:		74,277	111,075	153,783	212,754	382,204	456,568	1,015,496	552,229
Solicited by pharmacist delegates:							3,954	51,285	35,915
Solicited by law enforcement:		680	889	1,230	845	1,150	1,224	1,011	391
Solicited by regulatory agencies:		833	1,401	1,612	1,584	1,364	1,675	1,477	701
Average queries per day:									
		854	1,319	1,788	2,372	3,361	3,926	6,896	7,727

Outlook for Next Fiscal Year

The program continues to enroll new authorized users, and the daily average number of queries continues to increase. With assistance from the licensing agencies encouraging use of the program by their licensees, along with legislative mandates for certain prescribers and patients, we hope to improve on the current registration rate. With the recent legislative change facilitating the sharing of data with other states, we continue to identify new states with whom we can share prescription data.

Conclusion

The program has completed approximately eight years of operation. Based on feedback from authorized users, it appears to represent an efficient and cost-effective use of resources. Data from the program suggests we have made some early contributions to the reduction of diversion of controlled substances. Our interstate collaborations have yielded high marks for our program design and operation. We look forward to fully developing the potential of our program to identify and inhibit the diversion of controlled substances in Louisiana.

We acknowledge the contributions from Ms. Lindsey Schultz, our Administrative Coordinator, and Mr. Joseph Fontenot, Program Manager, for their operation of the program and the development of this report.

Prepared by:
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Executive Director