



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
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Prescription Monitoring Program Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2018-2019

July 1, 2019

Introduction

The Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is an electronic database used to collect and monitor prescription data for all Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substances, as well as certain drugs of concern, dispensed by a pharmacy in Louisiana or to a Louisiana resident from a pharmacy located in another state. The PMP also provides a venue for monitoring patient prescription history for practitioners.

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 to state residents by pharmacies located in other states. 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 PMP was implemented in August 2008. Pharmacies and dispensing prescribers were instructed how and when to transmit their dispensing transactions to the program vendor for assimilation into the PMP database. Prescribers, dispensers, and other persons authorized to access PMP information were instructed how to secure their access privileges. The web portal to the PMP database was opened to queries on January 1, 2009, and the program remains fully operational.

Advisory Council

The enabling legislation created the PMP Advisory Council to assist the Board in the development and operation of the program. The council consists of the following members, each of whom may appoint a designee:

1. The president of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners;
2. The president of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry;
3. The president of the Louisiana State Board of Nursing;
4. The president of the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners;
5. The president of the Louisiana Academy of Physician Assistants;
6. The president of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy;
7. The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police;
8. The administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;
9. The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives;
10. The president of the Louisiana Senate;
11. The chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare;
12. The chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare;
13. The secretary of the Department of Health;
14. The president of the Louisiana State Medical Society;
15. The president of the Louisiana Dental Association;
16. The president of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners;
17. The president of the Optometry Association of Louisiana;
18. The president of the Louisiana Pharmacists Association;
19. The president of the Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association;
20. The president of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores;
21. The president of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association;
22. The president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association;
23. The president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America; and
24. The president of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists.

During Fiscal Year 2018-2019, the council convened all four of their regularly-scheduled quarterly meetings. Representatives from six of the 24 organizations attended 100% of the meetings; ten entities attended 75%; two attended 50%; two attended 25%, and four entities had no representation at any of the meetings. During each of the meetings, program staff presented data concerning the number of prescription transactions reported to the program database as well as the number of queries to the database by prescribers, dispensers, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies. The staff also reported on the addition of new states available through the PMP InterConnect interstate network, as well as the increased utilization by the private sector of the PMP Gateway service, which integrates the PMP access portal into existing practice information systems in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, practitioner offices, and pharmacies. The council reviewed new legislation adopted during the 2018 legislative session, and staff provided updates on the operational implementation of the legislative mandates.

Vendor Contract

With the 2013 contract expiring at the end of 2018, the Board solicited public bids for an expanded list of improvements and technical specifications. The La. Office of State Procurement awarded the new contract in January 2019 to Appriss, which was the sole bidder.

Program Highlights

- *August 1, 2018* – established access for an epidemiologist with the La. Dept. of Health for public health surveillance purposes, as authorized by 232 of the 2018 Legislature.
- *December 21, 2018* – Louisiana Office of State Procurement awarded the PMP vendor contract to Appriss, Inc. with an effective date of January 1, 2019.
- *April 3, 2019* – through participation with the PMP InterConnect™ sponsored by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, achieved connection with the United States Military Health System and 26 states, including Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- *May 6, 2019* – first distribution of Prescriber Report Cards. The Prescriber Report Card is intended to give prescribers insight into their opioid prescribing patterns. Reports are provided quarterly to all registered PMP prescriber users with an active account and a defined role and specialty who have written at least one opioid prescription during the prior six-month period.

Louisiana PMP Statewide Integration Project

On January 1, 2019, the Board partnered with the Louisiana Dept. of Health's Office of Public Health, Bureau of Community Preparedness (LDH-OPH-BCP) and Appriss Health to provide a statewide PMP integration option to all healthcare providers in Louisiana utilizing a service called PMP Gateway®. Gateway offers healthcare providers an option to integrate PMP data within the provider's electronic health record (EHR) or pharmacy information system to provide a streamlined clinical workflow for providers. The integration eliminates the need for providers to log in separately to the PMP web portal; instead, the EHR automatically initiates a patient query and returns the patient's PMP information directly within the provider's EHR or pharmacy information system.

Included as part of the integration, users now have access to an advanced analytics and patient

support tool called NarxCare®. In addition to the existing Louisiana PMP functionality, NarxCare aggregates and analyzes prescription information from pharmacies and presents visual interactive information, as well as advanced analytic insights, machine learning risk scores and more to help prescribers and pharmacists provide better patient safety and outcomes for every patient. NarxCare also provides tools and resources that support patients' needs and assists a healthcare provider to connect their patient to treatment when appropriate. This statewide initiative is funded by a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant awarded to LDH-OPH-BCP and covers the costs of the licensing fees associated with the integration and NarxCare service.

As of June 30, 2019, the Louisiana PMP was interoperable with 80 licensees (EHR and pharmacy information systems) across the state. There were an additional 179 licensee applicants (EHRs and pharmacy information systems) which had applied for integration and were in process to complete the necessary requirements to obtain access. It is important to note that several licensees have numerous facilities across the state. Ochsner Health System, for example, is one licensee with multiple facilities across the state from New Orleans to Shreveport. Other such licensees include Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, Lafayette General Health System, Wal-Mart Pharmacies, and Kroger Pharmacies.

Program Metrics

The data on the following pages provide summary data for the operational aspects of the program for Calendar Year 2018. The first graphic presents information about the use of the information by the authorized users as identified in the governing legislation. Data for the different categories of prescribers are presented, including the number of prescribers authorized to obtain PMP access privileges, the number with active access privileges and the number of queries to the PMP database by those prescribers. Other authorized users include law enforcement and regulatory agencies; information concerning the number of queries originating from those entities is also presented.

The second graphic presents information concerning the numbers of controlled substance prescriptions dispense in the state, including summary data for different types of drugs like opioids and benzodiazepines. Just over 11 million prescriptions were dispensed in the state during Calendar Year 2018, with an average of 2.424 prescriptions per Louisiana resident.

Outlook for Next Fiscal Year

The program is implementing several new features this year, including monitoring for mandatory use compliance as well as the initiation of clinical alerts.

- The controlled substance law contains some mandatory use provisions for certain prescribers in certain situations, and there are some exceptions to those requirements. The monitor can alert staff when prescribers appear to deviate from the mandatory use requirements. Staff will relay the information to the prescriber's licensing authority which can then determine whether an exception applies or compliance was not achieved.
- The program will offer prescribers multiple types of clinical alerts. These electronic alerts are delivered directly to a prescriber's dashboard and his email if desired to alert the prescriber that patient has
 - Exceeded a set prescriber/dispenser threshold;
 - Exceeded a daily active MME threshold;
 - Exceeded a daily active MME threshold for methadone;
 - Exceeded a days count threshold for opioid prescriptions; or
 - Been prescribed opioids and benzodiazepines concurrently.

Louisiana Board of Pharmacy
 Prescription Monitoring Program

Authorized User Statistics for Calendar Year 2018

	Number of Providers Eligible for PMP Access (as of 12/31/2018)	Number of Providers with Active PMP Access Privileges (as of 12/31/2018)	Number of PMP Requests through AWARxE™	Number of PMP Requests through GATEWAY™
Healthcare Provider Roles				
Physician (MD, DO)	13,000	8,605	1,393,029	3,543,306
Nurse Practitioner (APRN)	3,226	2,473	300,383	109,849
Dentist (DDS)	2,225	1,509	21,658	0
Physician Assistant (PA)	880	624	65,442	10,435
Optometrist (OD)	360	148	35	0
Podiatrist (DPM)	161	109	879	0
Medical Psychologist (MP)	89	83	19,786	0
Medical Intern/Resident	1,076	937	3,354	0
Prescriber's Delegate	NA	2,127	793,101	NA
Pharmacist (PST)	9,069	4,156	1,289,904	720,124
Pharmacist's Delegate	NA	812	140,533	NA
Totals	30,086	21,583	4,028,104	4,383,714

**Law Enforcement, Prosecutorial Officials, &
 Specialty Courts**

DEA (patient requests)	521
Specialty Courts	102
FBI	335
Homeland Security	3
Local Law Enforcement	366
HHS - OIG	12
State Attorney General	1
State Police	40
Total	1380

Regulatory Agencies

LA State Board of Medical Examiners	1,149
LA State Board of Dentistry	38
LA State Board of Nursing	918
LA State Board of Pharmacy	1,744
DEA (licensee requests)	808
Total	4,657

Other Roles

Medical Examiner / Coroner	262
Louisiana Medicaid	726
Total	988

Rx DISPENSATION DASHBOARD

A high level overview of reported dispensation activity.



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Quick Slicers:



2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
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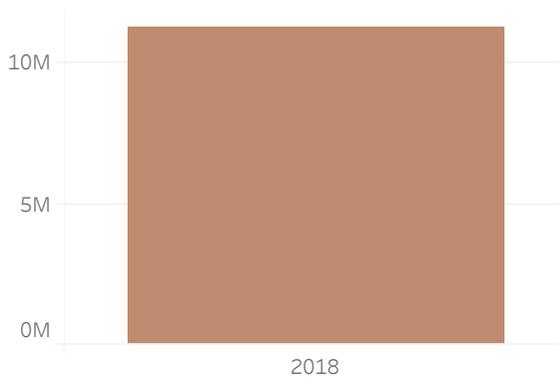
State Rx per Capita
2.424

Prescriptions
11,307,069

Quantity Dispensed	EACH (TABLETS, KITS, ETC..)	513,932K
	GRAMS (SOLIDS)	3,256K
	MILLILITERS (LIQUIDS)	81,609K
	UNSPECIFIED	118K

Days Supply
265,983,525

YoY Prescriptions (#)



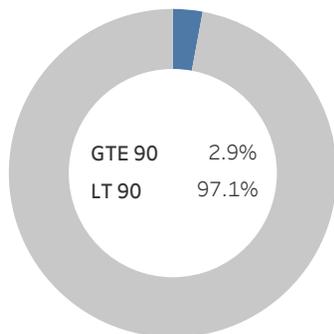
YoY Prescriptions (#) by Drug Schedule

Schedule 2	2018	5,139,558
Schedule 3	2018	725,533
Schedule 4	2018	4,579,843
Schedule 5	2018	539,681
Unscheduled	2018	321,288
Unspecified	2018	1,166

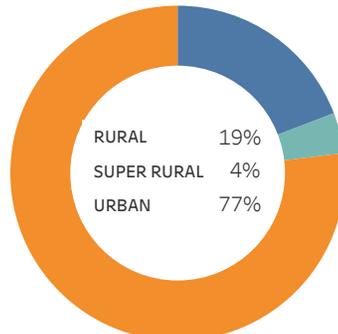
YoY Prescriptions (#) by Drug Classes

Opioid	2018	4,786,754
Benzo	2018	2,498,343
Anxiolytic, Hypnotics, Se..	2018	998,486
Other	2018	3,023,486

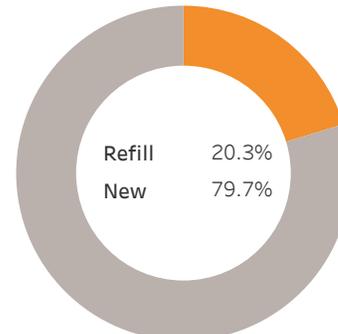
Prescriptions >= 90 MME vs. All



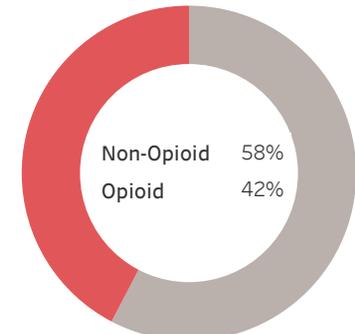
Rx by Patient Demographic Environment



New vs. Refill Prescriptions



Opioids vs. Non Opioids (%)



Conclusion

The program has completed approximately ten 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 progress in 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 appreciate the contributions from and collaboration with our partners on the Prescription Monitoring Program Advisory Council. We also acknowledge the contributions from our administrative coordinators, Ms. Danielle Hartzog and Ms. Nerissa Montgomery, and the program manager, Mr. Joseph Fontenot, for their assistance with the development of this report and administrative oversight of the program.

Respectfully submitted,
Malcolm J. Broussard
Executive Director