

PHYSICIANS MUST CHECK PMP

The fight against prescription drug abuse in Oklahoma has another weapon.

As of November, 2015, Oklahoma physicians must check the Oklahoma Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) data base before writing prescriptions for certain addictive medications. The measure was enacted and signed by Governor Mary Fallon during the last session of the Oklahoma Legislature.

The bill is designed to identify “doctor shoppers” or others trying to obtain prescriptions from multiple sources. Governor Fallin predicted the new law will save hundreds of lives.

The law mandates Oklahoma physicians check PMP before writing the first prescription and at least once every 180 days thereafter when prescribing “opioids, synthetic opioids, semisynthetic opioids, benzodiazepine (e.g., Xanax, Valium) and carisoprodol (e.g., Soma).” Physicians may designate a “trusted” staff member to check PMP on the prescriber’s behalf.

Physicians may access PMP data anytime before actually writing a prescription. Therefore, surgeons or other specialists who anticipate using any of these drugs

can contact PMP after an initial appointment, diagnosis or pre-treatment period.

The new law now permits physicians to copy the PMP report and make it a part of the patient record.

Physicians will not have to query PMP if prescribing these medicines for end-of-life care (Hospice) or nursing home residents.

The licensing Boards of the professions allowed to prescribe—Medicine, Osteopathy, Dentistry, Podiatry, Nursing, Optometry and Veterinary Medicine-- will enforce this new law. Every month, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control will provide the Boards with a list of the top twenty prescribers of these controlled substances in each discipline. These monthly reports may be considered as “complaints for the purpose of investigations or other actions by the respective licensing Board.”

Physicians not already registered for access to PMP data may do so by clicking the PMP icon on the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision website, okmedicalboard.org, or calling the PMP Help Desk, 1-877-627-2674.

The law is scheduled to “sunset” after five years. The Oklahoma Legislature would then have to reauthorize the bill.

Authors of the legislation are: State Senators Ann Griffin, R, Guthrie, and Richard Morrisette, D, OKC; and State Representatives Pat Ownbey, R, Admore, and Doug Cox, M.D., R, Grove, an emergency room physician.



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