

The District of Columbia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (DC PDMP) Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)?

The PDMP is an electronic database used to monitor and collect data on the dispensation of prescription data for Schedule II, III, IV and V controlled substances, as well as products containing the covered substances Butalbital, Cyclobenzaprine and Gabapentin.

The District of Columbia (DC) PDMP is designed for DC licensed prescribers and dispensers to use as a tool to support informed patient care and to reduce addiction and overdose trends within the District/Maryland/Virginia (DMV) area. There is no cost for registering or accessing the database.

2. How do I find laws and regulations that govern the PDMP in the District of Columbia?

District of Columbia PDMP laws and regulations, such as [Chapter 103 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#) can be found on the DC PDMP website <https://dchealth.dc.gov/PDMP>. In addition, [notices](#) are posted on the website to keep providers up-to-date with new information.

3. Which drugs are monitored?

Schedule II, III, IV and V controlled substances, as well as products containing the covered substances Butalbital, Cyclobenzaprine, and Gabapentin.

4. Which practitioners can access PDMP data?

Physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, veterinarians, optometrists, podiatrists, naturopathic physicians, and other licensed professionals authorized by DC Health can access PDMP data.

5. If I access PDMP information through a health information exchange (HIE) such as CRISP, does that mean I am registered for the DC PDMP?

The DC PDMP is separate from health information exchanges like CRISP. Please ensure that you are registered with the DC PDMP as an individual in addition to

any HIEs you may use in your practice.

6. Is there a requirement to register with the PDMP?

Yes, all prescribers and dispensers who are licensed in DC are required to register with the DC PDMP. Please refer to the [Health Care Reporting Amendment Act of 2020](#) for additional information.

7. Do prescribers and pharmacists who practice in other states or jurisdictions have to register with the DC PDMP?

Yes, all prescribers and dispensers who are licensed in DC must register with the DC PDMP, including those who practice in other states or jurisdictions. Please note that even if you have registered with a PDMP in another state, you still have to complete the registration process for the DC PDMP.

8. Are retired practitioners required to register with the DC PDMP?

If a retired prescriber or dispenser still maintains a DC professional license, they must register for the DC PDMP.

9. What if I don't have a DEA or NPI number?

Those without a DEA number may register as a "Prescriber without DEA". Those without an NPI number may register as "Non-Dispensing Pharmacist."

10. How do I register for the DC PDMP?

You may register on the DC PDMP website:
<https://districtofcolumbia.pmpaware.net/login>

Licensed practitioners will need the following information to complete their registration:

- DC Professional License Number (including prefix letters)
- DEA Number, if applicable (two letters followed by seven numbers)
- DC Controlled Substance Registration Number, if applicable (including prefix letters)
- Employer National Provider ID (NPI), if applicable
 - Veterinarians may enter a string of seven zeros (0000000) in place of an NPI number

After filling out your information successfully, you will be required to verify your email address. Please click the link in the automatically generated email to complete your registration.

11. Is there a cost to register for the DC PDMP?

No, registration is free.

12. If I am a DC licensed practitioner with a DEA number but do not have a CS registration, do I need to apply for a Controlled Substance Registration in order to register with the DC PDMP?

No, practitioners with a DEA number who do not prescribe in the District do not need a Controlled Substance Registration to register for the PDMP. Practitioners that fall into this category are able to register as “Prescriber without DEA”.

13. Where can I find proof of my DC PDMP registration for my own records?

If you ever need to prove that you registered for the DC PDMP, you can download your registration PDF. You can access the document in the PDMP system. Once you are logged in, click on your name in the top right corner, then click “My Profile” from the drop down list, and then click the “Download PDF” icon on the right under the DC Health logo. That PDF will include your registration information.

14. What if I need to update my username/email, role, DEA number, work address, or other information in my DC PDMP profile?

If you ever need to update your DC PDMP profile, please email doh.pdmp@dc.gov and we can assist. Do not create a duplicate profile using a new email address.

15. Are prescribers and dispensers required to query the DC PDMP?

Currently, prescribers and dispensers who are licensed in DC are only required to register with the PDMP. There is no mandate to query (check) the PDMP; however, legislation is pending.

16. Can I have my support staff access the PDMP for me?

Yes, a prescriber or dispenser authorized to access prescription monitoring data may delegate their authority to access the data to up to two (2) health care professionals who are:

- Licensed, registered, or certified by a health occupations board; and
- Employed at the same location and under the direct supervision of the prescriber or dispenser.

Additional information for delegates:

Delegates must submit the [Delegate Registration Form](#).

If the delegate becomes ineligible at any time, the program must be notified in writing within 24 hours. Registration for delegates expire June 30th of every even numbered year.

17. Who is required to report data to the DC PDMP?

Each dispenser of a controlled or covered substance must submit the prescription monitoring data required in the form and manner required by to the Program within twenty-four (24) hours after a controlled or covered substance is dispensed, for each controlled or covered substance dispensed.

Any dispenser located outside the geographical boundaries of the District that is licensed or registered by the District must submit the prescription monitoring data to the Program within twenty-four (24) hours after the controlled or covered substance is dispensed to an ultimate user who resides in the District.

For assistance with integrating the PDMP into your health information exchange (HIE), refer to the [Gateway Integration](#) guidance.

For assistance with reporting data from your facility, refer to the [Data Submission Dispenser Guide](#).

18. Who has access to PDMP data?

- A prescriber or dispenser who is licensed in good standing
- Law enforcement
 - Open investigations are required, as law enforcement agencies need approval in order to query the system
 - Law enforcement personnel must submit a [Law Enforcement Registration Form](#)
 - Law enforcement personnel may query for information in the DC PDMP by completing the steps outlined in the [Law Enforcement Records Request Form](#)
 - Registration for law enforcement expires June 30th of every even numbered year
- Licensing and regulatory boards
- Medical examiners or coroners
- Research organizations

- An individual can request their own prescription monitoring information via the [Patient Self Records Request Form](#), or their patient representative can request it via the [Patient Representative Records Request Form](#)

19. Is PDMP data kept confidential?

All prescription monitoring data collected, maintained, or submitted is confidential, privileged, not subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion in civil litigation, and is not a public record.

20. What other resources and information are available?

- [DC PDMP \(PMP AWARxE\)](#)
- [NarxCare](#)
- [DC Health Professionals](#)
- [DC PDMP Annual Report](#)
- [DCRx: The DC Center for Rational Prescribing](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

21. Who do I contact for questions about the PDMP?

All questions and press inquiries regarding the PDMP must be submitted in writing. Interested parties may send inquiries by email to doh.pdmp@dc.gov or by regular mail to:

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
Health Regulation and Licensing Administration
899 N. Capitol Street NE, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20002