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# GA PMP

Georgia's Prescription Monitoring Program  
Presentation

*PDMP South Regional Meeting  
April 28-29, 2009*



# Planning Grant Activities

- Formed an advisory committee; started monthly meeting schedule
- Visited existing sites with current PMP programs and networked with other PMP managers at regional/national meetings
- Briefings from vendors for collecting/maintaining data
- Purchased equipment and retained a consultant to help develop/present educational programs
- Prepared slide presentation and brochures for local educational meetings
- Added PMP information to GDNA website



# Local Educational Meetings

- 20 meetings – 1500 contacts
- Pharmacy Associations
- Hospitals – Emergency Physicians
- Boards – American Cancer Society, Georgia Medical Board, Georgia Dental Board
- Law Enforcement
- Legislative meetings

## What Can You Do ?

Contact your State  
Representatives Today:

### House

**Communications:**  
404-656-0305

[Riley.lowry@house.ga.gov](mailto:Riley.lowry@house.ga.gov)  
Director

### Senate

**Communications:**  
404-656-5040

Bob Ewing, Secretary of  
the Senate



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## Georgia Prescription Monitoring Program



## Why is a Prescription Monitoring Program Needed?

Prescription drug abuse comprises approximately 30% of all drug abuse in the U.S. Over 15 million Americans abuse opioids, depressants, or stimulants; this number exceeds the combined number of Americans abusing cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, and heroin.

Between 1992 and 2003:

Adult abuse rose 81%

Teen abuse rose 212%

Teen abuse of prescription opioids rose 542%

Teen risk of abusing prescription drugs:

5 times the risk of using marijuana

12 times the risk of using heroin

15 times the risk of using ecstasy

21 times the risk of using cocaine

Prescription drug abuse and diversion:

threatens patient and public safety

impacts the medical community

impacts law enforcement and the criminal justice system

impacts employers and coworkers

Source: *The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University*  
– *CASA Report*

## What is a Prescription Monitoring Program?

A Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) uses a centralized database to collect and analyze Schedule II – V controlled substances from all outpatient pharmacies that dispense prescriptions.

Prescribers and pharmacists register to use the program and are given access to the database 24/7.



PMPs are intended to be a source of information for practitioners and pharmacists to use in the care of patients, as well as a tool to help deter drug abuse and diversion. A PMP is not intended to prevent patients from obtaining needed drugs.

## What are the benefits of the Program?

Gives prescribers an added tool in patient care

Gets patients who are addicted into proper treatment

Curbs illicit use of prescription drugs

Reduces prescription drug overdoses

Supplements investigations

- Monitors Schedule II through V

- Requires dispensers to submit data electronically

- Provides for confidentiality of Information



# Key Legislative Issues

- Use Model Act for legislation preparation
- Provide for shared information with other states
- Schedules to be monitored
- Liability for not using database
- Penalties for misuse of information



# Challenges

- HIPPA
- Physicians concerned about liability for not using the database
- What to do if a problem patient is identified
- More work/cost for pharmacists
- Violation of privacy and due process rights
- Government intrusion, second-guessing physician/patient relationship
- “Chilling effect” on prescribing drugs for pain management



# Plans for next six months -

- Continue meetings of the advisory committee
- Visit an additional functional PMP site
- Continue local educational presentations
- Encourage use of GDNA website
- Begin working legislative process for next session