

Dear Prescriber,

Attached is your personalized Prescriber Comparison Report, which provides a snapshot of your prescribing of opioids for the most recent quarter.

This report includes:

- Comparison to **Similar Prescribers**, those in the state that have listed the same role (physician, APN, PA, etc.) AND specialty (general surgeon, family medicine, etc.). *As an example, this metric shows family medicine doctors as compared to family medicine doctors*
- Comparison of those **Within Your Specialty**, those in the state that have listed the same specialty (general surgeon, family medicine, etc.). *As an example, this compares family medicine doctors to family medicine APNs and family medicine PAs, etc.*
- **How many patients** for whom you have prescribed opioids
- **Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME)** dosing information broken out in several MME ranges
- **Treatment duration** which is another metric that corresponds to legislation requiring PDMP use as well as number of patients under treatment for chronic pain
- **PDMP usage** which shows exactly how frequently you and your delegates are using the PDMP
- **Dangerous combination therapy** which provides details of combination therapy that may increase risk for overdose

Please take some time to review this information as well as the attached document explaining the metrics used to generate the report. Also, please check the dashboard for more information, including various educational opportunities regarding opioid prescribing.

The following links may also be helpful and of interest:

The Arkansas State Medical Board's Amendment to Regulation 2 related to the prescribing of opioids:

<http://www.armedicalboard.org/Professionals/pdf/Regulation%202%20Mark%20Up%202-2-28%20Revised.pdf>

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (March 2016) prescribing guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/resources.html>

AR-IMPACT, a web-based, interactive, learning conference for prescribers has been launched by UAMS. Visit the website for information on upcoming topics, to attend the sessions, and to earn CMEs: <http://arimpact.uams.edu/>

Additionally, here are some Prescriber Comparison Reports Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) intended to help you make the most of the information that has been provided:

Q: Why am I getting this report?

A: Per Act 820 of 2017, the AR PDMP is required to issue quarterly reports to individual prescribers. If after one year of providing quarterly reports the information appears to indicate misuse or abuse, the AR Department of Health (ADH) will send a report to the licensing board of the particular prescriber. Additionally, this report provides you with valuable information pertaining to your own opioid and benzodiazepine prescribing, and that of others within your healthcare specialty and role. We hope you find it helpful as we all examine how we can address opioid misuse and abuse.

Q: Who determined the list of "healthcare specialty" options?

A: The list of “healthcare specialty’ options used by the PDMP is issued by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and is used by many state and federal government agencies.

Q: My ‘healthcare specialty’ is incorrect, how do I change it?

A: The healthcare specialties listed in the Prescriber Comparison Reports were self-identified by the PDMP user when the program transitioned to the new system. In order to change your healthcare specialty, log into your account then click through to Menu>MyProfile>Add a Healthcare Specialty>Save Changes. Or contact Tracy Gatlin, AR PDMP, 501-614-5293, Tracy.Gatlin@arkansas.gov.

Q: What if I selected multiple healthcare specialties?

A: The Prescriber Comparison Report will compare your prescribing activity against other prescribers who share the same primary healthcare specialty you designated. It is important to note, however, that the Report compiles all of your applicable prescribing, not just for your primary healthcare specialty designation.

Q: How can I view a list of my prescriptions that were included in my Prescriber Comparison Report?

A: A full list of your prescriptions can be accessed on the AR PDMP site. To view the prescriptions compiled for this Prescriber Comparison Report: click RxSearch, then click MyRx. Next, enter the date range of interest and select the DEA number associated with your Prescriber Comparison Report.

Q: What if I believe that there is an error on my MyRx prescription history?

A: If you believe that one or more of these prescriptions are incorrect, you may contact the dispensing pharmacy for additional details about the prescription(s) in question. If fraudulent activity associated with your DEA number is suspected, you may contact local law enforcement.

Q: I prescribe buprenorphine for MAT services, is this included in my report?

A: Buprenorphine has been excluded from MME calculations, but they are part of prescription counts in the report.

Q: Does everyone get a prescriber report?

A: All prescribers registered with the AR PDMP that have prescribed at least one opioid within this reporting period will receive a Prescriber Comparison Report.

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program hopes that you find this information helpful in your practice. As always, if you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Tracy Gatlin, AR PDMP, 501-614-5293, Tracy.Gatlin@arkansas.gov.

Respectfully,

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