



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE RULES PERTAINING TO THE ARKANSAS PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

August 13, 2021

PURPOSE

The Arkansas Department of Health (Department) is seeking Governor Hutchinson's review of proposed amendments to the Rules Pertaining to the Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to A.C.A. § 20-7-613 the Department has authority to promulgate rules for the Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. These rules protect the state health system and the citizens of Arkansas by enhancing patient care by providing prescription monitoring information that will ensure legitimate use of controlled substances in health care.

KEY POINTS

The proposed rule:

- Makes miscellaneous corrections to references and descriptions
- Inserts definitions for clarification
- Makes revisions mandated by Act 62 of 2021

DISCUSSION

The Department's Center for Health Protection is initiating the process for the revision of the Arkansas State Board of Health Rules Pertaining to the Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The following revisions are being proposed:

- Updated the Cover page to reflect new Secretary of Health "Jose Romero" (Page 1)
- Updated Table of Contents (Page 2)
- Arranged Definitions Section alphabetically. (Page 3-10)
- Insertion a definition for "Drug Overdose" (Page 9)

- Inserted language under definition “Exchangeability” to include instances where a provider deems an out of state search is warranted. (Page 8)
- Inserted language under Section IV (b)(2), to clarify the reporting of controlled substances by federal dispensers located in Arkansas and out of state federal dispensers mailing into Arkansas. (Page 10)
- Inserted language in Section IV (c) to allow for other means of reporting (specifically to allow vet clinics to fax or mail in forms) (Page 11)
- Inserted language in Section IV (d) to specify the process for reporting controlled substance dispensations for an animal/veterinary patient. (Page 11)
- Inserted language in Section IV (e), to encourage the usage of the PDMP during medication reconciliation. (Page 12)
- Inserted language in Section IV (g) (1 and 3) to allow for future updated ASAP formats to be reported to the PDMP, if approved by the PDMP. (Page 13)
- Inserted language to allow the department to notify a prescriber/dispenser of a patient drug overdose. (Page 18)
- As mandated by Act 62 of 2021, language was added to Section VII(a)(2) to allow the department to request prescription copies from dispensers for evaluation of data. (Page 18)
- In Section XIII (b), removed the “Director” and added “Secretary” (Page 22)
- Updated the certification page to reflect new Secretary of Health “Jose Romero” (Page 23)

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the proposed amendments to the Rules Pertaining to the Arkansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program be approved as proposed by the Department.