

Arkansas Prescription Monitoring Program

FY 2018

Second Quarter Report

October-December 2017



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Migration to PMP Aware

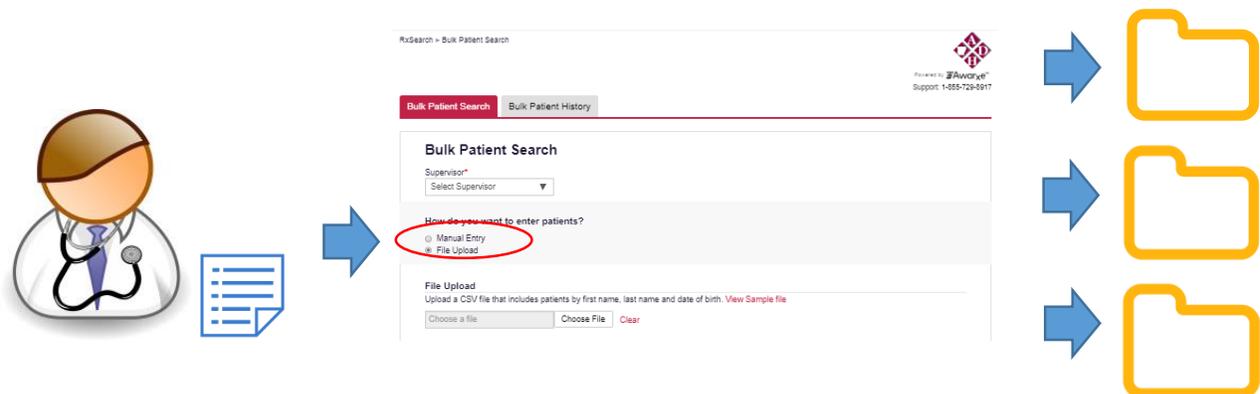
October – December 2017

On November 13th, the PMP launched a new website, PMP Aware, to replace RxSentry, which had been in use since the Arkansas PMP was first implemented in March 2013. The upgrade to PMP Aware provided prescribers, pharmacists and the PMP staff at ADH with access to a number of additional features.

For PMP users:

- Easier account creation and password reset.
- Faster log-in and patient search.
- Daily reporting, which gives PMP users up-to-date information about prescriptions filled within the last 48 hours.
- Faster data error correction by pharmacies.
- Bulk search capability, which allows users to look up an entire list of patients at one time, instead of searching for each one individually (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Bulk patient search available to PMP users through PMP Aware



For PMP staff:

- Information about prescriber's specialty is now required to sign up for the PMP.
 - Specialty information allows PMP staff to identify medical specialties that are expected to have above average opioid prescribing, like oncology.

PMP Users and Queries

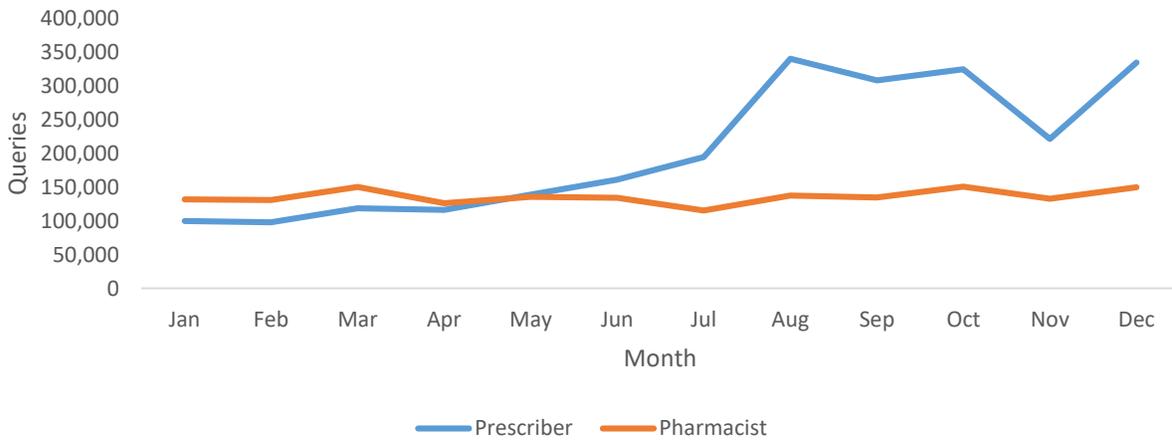
The total number of registered PMP users decreased by 432 (2.7%) between September and November. The decrease was due to the deletion of approximately 800 delegate accounts with incorrect or duplicate information. This system clean-up was completed during the conversion to the PMP Aware. During this same period, the number physician, pharmacist, dentist and other accounts increased. Between November and December, the number of all types of accounts increased or stayed the same (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of authorized users by type – October – December 2017

PMP User Type	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	
Physician (MD, OD)	5,193	Migration to new software platform	5,211	5,250	
Podiatrist	66		65	65	
Physician Assistant	306		318	326	
Adv. Practice Nurse	1,950		2,012	2,033	
Optometrist	74		91	93	
Dentist	893		899	915	
Veterinarian	22		25	29	
Pharmacist	2,711		2,822	2,853	
Delegate	4,335		3,700	3,908	
Law Enforcement	177		149	158	
Licensing Board	4		7	7	
TOTAL	15,731			15,299	15,637

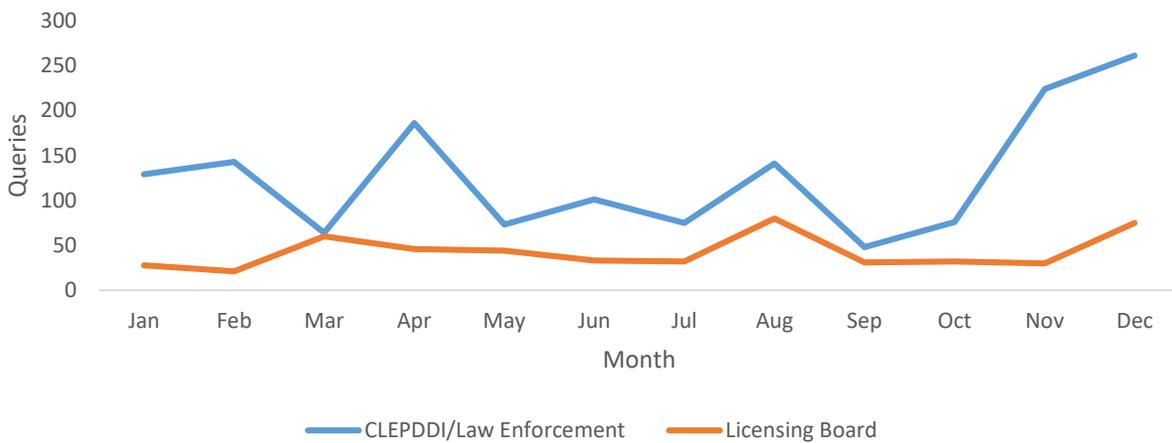
Queries to the PMP increased dramatically during 2017. The increase was driven by prescribers, who made three times more queries in December than they did in January. During this same period, queries by pharmacists increased modestly, with about 13% more queries made in December than January. Since the enactment of Act 820 on August 1, 2017, which requires physicians to check the PMP before prescribing certain controlled substances, prescribers have made about twice as many queries as pharmacists per month (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Number of queries by prescribers and pharmacists – Arkansas – January – December 2017



Licensing boards are able to access the PMP to investigate misuse and diversion of controlled substances by their licensees. Certified Law Enforcement Drug Diversion Investigators (CLEPDDI’s) are authorized to use the PMP to investigate drug diversion by healthcare providers and the general public. The total number of queries by these two groups reached an all-time high in December, suggesting increased use of the PMP to investigate diversion of controlled substances (Figure 3).

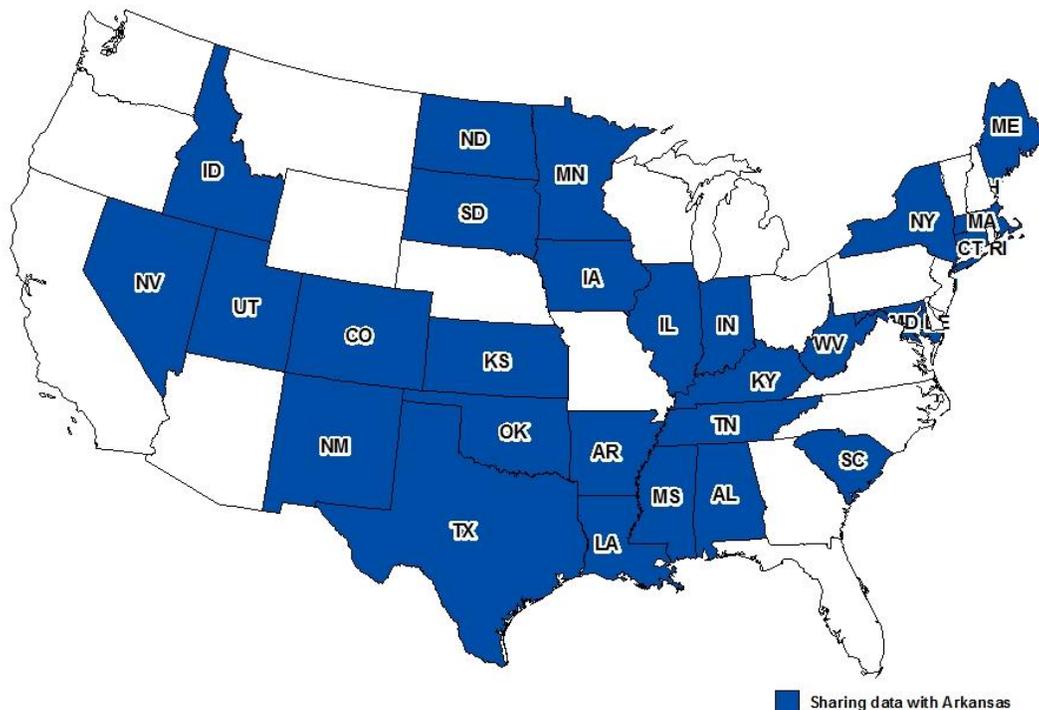
Figure 3: Number of queries by licensing boards and law enforcement – Arkansas – January - September 2017



Interstate Data Sharing

The ability to share data with other states continues to be one of the Arkansas PMP's greatest strengths. As of December 2017, the Arkansas PMP was interoperable with 25 other states, which means that prescribers in Arkansas can see controlled substances dispensed to their patients in 25 other states. Unfortunately, the state of Missouri does not yet have a statewide PMP, which means that prescribers cannot tell what prescriptions their patients fill at pharmacies in Missouri (Figure 4).

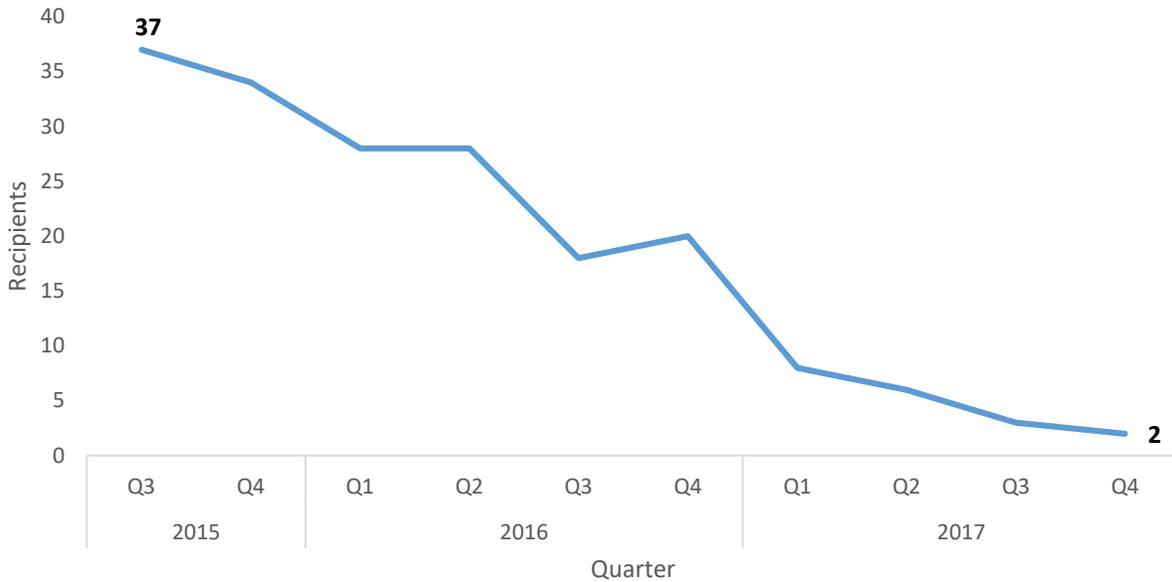
Figure 4: States that share PMP data with Arkansas – December 2017



Doctor Shopping

Reducing “doctor shopping,” or visits to multiple prescribers and pharmacies to obtain prescription drugs, is one of the PMP's biggest accomplishments. Since mid-2015, the number of patients visiting seven or more prescribers and seven or more pharmacies has fallen from 37 to 2 (Figure 5). As a result, the PMP Administrator is preparing to adopt stricter criteria for doctor shopping, which would include visits to six or more prescribers and six or more pharmacies in a 90-day period.

Figure 5: Recipients seeing 7 or more prescribers and 7 or more pharmacies in a 90-day period – Arkansas - third quarter 2015 – fourth quarter 2017



The number of pills dispensed to doctor shoppers has fallen in parallel with the number of doctor shoppers. Still, 1,101 doses were dispensed to doctor shoppers in the last quarter of 2017 (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Quantity of doses of controlled substance dispensed to 7x7 “Doctor Shoppers” – Arkansas – third quarter 2015 – fourth quarter 2017

