Prescription Monitoring Programs: An Update on Interstate Data Sharing

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The Scope of the Problem in Kentucky

- 8.5% of Kentuckians used prescription psychotherapeutic drugs for non-medical reasons in past year. (KY leads nation)
- 7% of Kentuckians have used prescription pain relievers such as Darvon and Percodan for non-medical reasons in past year. (KY leads nation)
- 4.6% of Kentuckians have used prescription tranquilizers such as Valium and Xanax for non-medical reasons in past year. (KY leads nation)
- 2.0% of Kentuckians have used prescription stimulants for non-medical reasons in past year (KY fourth in nation)

Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMPs)
Purpose of a PMP

- PMPs are intended to help prevent the abuse and diversion of controlled pharmaceutical substances
  - In a manner that does not impede use for legitimate medical purposes!
- PMPs provide a tool for prescribers and dispensers to identify and prevent misuse, abuse and “doctor shopping”
- PMPs provide an investigative tool for law enforcement to inhibit and prevent diversion
PMP Operation

- PMPs track controlled substances as reported by dispensers
  - Schedules II through V as determined by each state
- Data typically available to:
  - Practitioners for medical treatment of a patient
  - Pharmacists for pharmaceutical treatment of a patient
  - Law enforcement officers for an open drug investigation
Controlled Substance Schedules

- **Schedule I – Illegal Drugs**
  - e.g. heroin, marijuana, etc.

- **Schedule II – Most addictive legal drugs; high abuse potential**
  - e.g. oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet, Tylox).

- **Schedule III – Less abuse potential than I or II**
  - e.g. hydrocodone combinations (Vicodin, Lortab).

- **Schedule IV – Less abuse potential than III**
  - e.g. benzodiazepines (Xanax, Valium).

- **Schedule V – least abuse potential**
  - e.g. codeine containing cough mixtures.
States with Monitoring Programs

- WA
- OR
- WA
- SD
- KS
- WI
- MI
- NY
- ME
- VT
- NH
- RI
- WY
- CO
- KS
- MO
- IL
- IN
- OH
- WV
- VA
- PA
- NJ
- MD
- WV
- DE
- MD
- DC
- AK
- GU
- HI
- FL
- PR
The Need for Sharing Prescription Monitoring Program Data
Why Share Data?

- Abusers/diverters not constrained by state borders
- PMP users requesting to see data from additional states
- Controlled substances dispensed within a state prescribed throughout the country
Rx’s Dispensed in KY by State of Origin

[Map showing number of Rx’s dispensed by state, with color coding for different ranges of counts.]
Current PMP Data Sharing

- Kentucky and many state PMPs allow authorized users from other states and federal agencies.
- Users must maintain PMP accounts with multiple states
  - Multiple userids
  - Multiple passwords
- States do not currently have formal agreements to share data
The Prescription Monitoring Information Exchange Project (PMIX)
Why PMIX?

- 50+ State / territory programs
- States have different problems, resources and approaches
- States have proven track record for collecting and providing data
- Implement a national-level PMP data sharing solution with state-level control
PMIX Project Sponsorship

- U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance
  - Project Management by IJIS Institute
  - Project direction by BJA/IJIS PMP Committee (representatives from state PMPs, technology vendors, federal and national partners)
PMIX Primary Goal

- Implement a standardized, secure, scalable approach for the exchange of electronic PMP data among states
- Utilize PMIX Hub to provide focal point for common design and execution
PMIX Status/Plans

- May 2007 - Demonstrated a pilot point-to-point exchange of PMP information between California and Nevada
- September 2009 – Demonstrated test data request and response through PMIX Hub
- Implement PMP data sharing pilot between KY and OH PMPs by December 2010.
PMIX Technology Advantages

- One web interface to PMIX hub instead of interfaces with each state data sharing partner
- Use of standards to simplify PMIX implementation
  - Justice Reference Architecture (JRA)
  - National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)
- Available work products to support development
Policy Challenges

- Statutory authority
- HIPAA
- Allowable access to data
  - User authentication
- Data security/data retention
- Usage and disclosure of data
  - Who enforces?
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