Prescription Drug Monitoring Compact

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Interstate Compact

Project Overview

- State Driven Solution
- CSG served as neutral convener, facilitator, and resource
- Provide states the tools necessary to govern/enforce data exchange

1) Interstate compacts provide a state driven solution and often times avoid federal intervention. In the case of the prescription drug monitoring compact, the timing seems perfect. With over 40 states having passed PDMPs, the next logical step is to create a system that allows states to seamlessly share prescription drug data across state lines.

2) With this in mind, The Council of State Governments served as a neutral convener of an advisory group tasked with exploring ways to reduce the illegal movement of prescription drugs across state lines. The formation of the advisory group was based on a request from CSG’s membership at their 2009 Spring Meeting.

3) Ultimately the compact aims to provide states a way to securely share prescription drug data across state lines, while also protecting patient privacy. As you’ll see throughout the presentation, both the advisory group and the drafting team have worked tirelessly to ensure this goal is met.
1) CSG staff worked closely with Sherry Green from the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws and Jim Giglio from the Alliance for States with Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs to ensure there was a good balance of state officials, subject matter experts, and interested stakeholders. This was done to ensure each of the relevant stakeholder groups was represented and able to participate in the discussion.
1) Out of the 21 groups CSG invited to participate on the advisory panel, 19 were represented. This served as an indication to the advisory panel that the timing was right to explore the possibility of an interstate agreement to share data.
1) Both CSG and the advisory group felt it was essential to explore a number of different options. Certainly interstate compacts were discussed, but the group also discussed the use of MOUs, Model State Laws and other state sponsored mechanisms.

2) The next goal of the group was to have a robust discussion about the challenges, obstacles, and opportunities surrounding the exchange of prescription drug data. This is why it was so important to have the “right” people at the table participating in the discussion.

3) The final goal of the advisory group was two fold. First to determine if an interstate compact was practical in this instance and second to establish a set of recommendations that would ultimately guide the drafting team during the creation of a compact.
The advisory group felt that any piece of legislation needed to include each of the sections listed on this slide. This was done with the goal of securely sharing data, while protecting patient privacy in mind. Although the draft isn’t finished yet, I am comfortable sharing some of the major issues covered by the compact. They include the following:

1) Under the compact, data shall be owned and retained by the disclosing state.
2) Data will be used only for reporting purposes. Data will not be stored in any database maintained by the receiving state nor shall it be used for long-term tracking.
3) The commission will establish rules and regulations governing authentication requirements.
4) The member states, through the commission, shall establish and maintain technology and security standards. These will remain flexible enough to be changed over time.
5) The member states will be responsible for funding the commission’s establishment and operations. While specific dollar amounts have not been determined, dues are expected to remain low and the compact also allows for the commission to seek funding from other sources, such as federal and private grants.

2) The advisory group also endorsed and created a drafting team.
1) As you can see, the drafting team is simply a sub-set of the original advisory panel. We met for the first time near CSG’s headquarters in Lexington and have met several times electronically since to develop the compact’s language.
1) The drafting team’s primary responsibility is to craft the language of the compact. This is being done with the recommendations made by the advisory panel in mind.

2) Once the language is finalized (and it is very close) the drafting team will share it with stakeholder groups, test states, and the advisory panel to ensure everybody is comfortable with the legislation and that state legislators will ultimately be willing to introduce the legislation in their respective states.

3) With help from CSG, the drafting team has also begun planning the education phase of the project. This will likely include the development of electronic and written materials detailing the specifics of the compact, the development of a legislative resource kit, and ultimately convening a legislative briefing for state legislators. In many ways this phase is the most important part of the project. We are nearing completion of what I think is an outstanding piece of legislation. Now we need to share the legislation with you all, help you to understand exactly what the compact aims to do and not do, and build a series of champions that can ultimately endorse and carry the legislation in your respective states.
1) We are close to completing the draft. At this point we have completed each section and simply need to review and finalize the language. CSG is working to convene the drafting team once more in person, which should be enough time to finalize the language.

2) As noted above, the educational portion of the project is in many ways the most important phase of the project. In order to successfully roll the legislation out during the 2011 session, it is important to begin the educational process during the fall of this year.
1) Certainly Sherry, Dave, and myself, along with our friends at CSG are happy to answer questions about compacts in general or the specifics of the prescription drug compact and each of us remains committed to providing you support during the enactment process. That includes providing oral and written testimony should it be required, along with educational resources as they are needed.
Contact Information

To learn more about the compact please contact us:

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