



September 5, 2018

Sen. Gordon Vance – Chair  
Economic Affairs Interim Committee  
Montana Legislature  
P.O. Box 20176  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

**RE: Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR) 2018 Interim Report**

Dear Chair Vance and Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee,

The Montana Board of Pharmacy (Board) submits this interim report as an update and status of the Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR), pursuant to 37-7-1514, MCA. The Board administers and maintains the MPDR and is administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industry. The MPDR is a key resource for Montana to help address opioid safety and addiction concerns.

**MPDR Overview**

- MPDR launched in November 2012 and is accessed through a secure online database
- Collects a list of controlled substances prescribed to patients and permits authorized health care providers to voluntarily access the information for improving patient safety
- MPDR information may also be used to identify possible misuse, abuse, and/or diversion of controlled substances
- Pharmacies are required to submit controlled substance prescription data to the MPDR
  - Currently, reporting is required within 8 days of dispensing
  - Effective 9/8/18, reporting is required by close of the next business day (daily reporting)
- Additional information about MPDR is available on its website at: [www.mpdrrt.gov](http://www.mpdrrt.gov)

**Access to MPDR Information**

- Prescribers and dispensers who register to use MPDR, including:
  - Physicians, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists, physician assistants, naturopathic physicians, and advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority
  - Pharmacists
  - Authorized agents (delegates) who search on behalf of a prescriber/dispenser
- Authorized representatives of Medicaid, Medicare, the Veterans Administration, Indian Health Services, and Tribal Health
- Law enforcement pursuant to a subpoena
- Professional licensing boards investigating drug misuse or diversion
- Individuals who request a copy of their own prescription history
- Authorized Board staff for administrative purposes

### **MPDR Funding**

- Annual \$30 fee collected from licensees at time of license renewal – fee is limited to those licensees who are authorized to prescribe or dispense controlled substances
- Federal grant funds from 2012 through April 2018
- Fiscal Year 2019 budget will operate on fees only; projected fee income is \$293,000 and projected budget is \$254,000

### **MPDR Statistics**

- 35,692 monthly patient history searches in July 2018
  - 1,169,344 total patient history searches since November 2012
- 4,341 total number of users registered to search MPDR as of July 2018
  - Represents nearly 53% of eligible users located in Montana
- 1,241 law enforcement subpoenas since November 2012
- 134 licensing board investigation requests since November 2012
- 14 states connected through interstate data sharing as of July 2018

### **Completed Projects**

- Fee collection at time of license renewal (September 2015)
- Pharmacy compliance auditing, partial functionality (April 2015)
- Delegate access (April 2016)
- Interstate data sharing (February 2017)
- Interagency data-sharing agreement with the Department of Public Health and Human Services for public health surveillance (April 2018)

### **Ongoing Priorities**

- Legislative Audit Division, Information Systems Audit, launched February 2018
- Preparing a Request for Proposal to evaluate systems that offer prescription drug monitoring program services based on functionality and costs savings
  - Other systems provide expanded functionality and services for statistical analysis and research, reporting to prescribers/dispensers, pharmacy audits, efficiencies in access and workflow, and other improvements
  - Workflow and access functionality includes integration of MPDR data into electronic health records, health information exchange, and pharmacy operating systems
- General maintenance and system support

### **2019 Legislative Priorities**

- Remove the MPDR fee sunset provision to allow fee collection past June 2019
- Revise requirements for who pays the MPDR fee and set the fee pursuant to 37-1-134, MCA, to run the program
- Require prescribers and dispensers to register to use the MPDR to increase use
- Clarify that MPDR prescription data accessed through the MPDR, as health care information, can be integrated into electronic workflow systems in medical and pharmacy practices subject to security and privacy regulations



On behalf of Starla Blank, PharmD, President, and other members of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to update the Committee. We look forward to working with you in the 2019 Legislative Session to ensure the long-term success and effectiveness of the MPDR in protecting patient safety.

For additional information on MPDR or the Board, please contact me at 406-841-2371 or at [mbough@mt.gov](mailto:mbough@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcie Bough". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marcie Bough, PharmD  
Executive Officer