Georgia physicians should confirm their delegates have registered with PDMP

Georgia Chapter ACP is reminding physician members that the individuals they designate to serve as Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) delegates must also register for the PDMP – keeping in mind that the PDMP requirements went into full effect on July 1, 2018 (i.e., every prescriber with a DEA number is now required to check the PDMP before they prescribe opiates or cocaine derivatives that are listed as Schedule II drugs or benzodiazepines).

State law allows prescribers to delegate their authority to check the PDMP to up to two staff members. It is important to select trustworthy individuals on your staff for your delegates.

According to the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), a delegate is allowed to access the PDMP at the request of the delegating doctor or pharmacist for only two purposes:

- To provide medical or pharmaceutical care to a specific patient of the delegating doctor or pharmacist; or
- To inform the delegating doctor or pharmacist of the patient’s potential use, misuse, abuse, underutilization of prescription medicine.

**A delegate is not authorized to look up a person’s prescription history on the PDMP for any other purpose.**

It is the duty of your delegates to protect the confidentiality of the information you found on the PDMP.

To complete the delegate registration process with the Georgia Department of Public Health, your designated delegates should complete the following:

- Pass the online “Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Database: Understanding Your Responsibilities” training course with a score of at least 70
- Receive instruction on the prescriber or dispenser’s PDMP security policy
- Sign a DPH ‘responsibility statement’ that must be placed in the delegate’s personnel file

It is also worth noting that individuals who have been convicted (i.e., pleaded guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal offense involving illegal drug use, possession, trafficking or sale are not eligible to serve as a PDMP delegate. However, individuals
who have been exonerated (i.e., they were discharged pursuant to Title 42, Chapter 8, Article 3 of the state code or pardoned) are eligible to serve as a PDMP delegate.

Call 404.463.1517 with questions related to PDMP registration.

Click to register to become Georgia PDMP delegate

Click for Georgia PDMP ‘Understanding Your Responsibilities’ training course and responsibility statement