



HELP FIGHT PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

Every day, 40 Americans die from an overdose caused by prescription painkiller abuse, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Overdoses of opioid prescription drugs now kill more people in the U.S. than heroin and cocaine combined.

Two in five teenagers mistakenly believe prescription drugs are “much safer” than illegal drugs, according to the DEA, and three in 10 teens mistakenly believe prescription painkillers are not addictive.

In the United States, every day 2,500 youths take a prescription pain reliever for the purpose of getting high for the very first time, according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The New Jersey State Commission of Investigation reported in June 2011 that a growing number of young people are abusing prescription drugs – and noted a significant trend in which the practice has led not only to increased incidences of painkiller addiction, but to the abuse of heroin.

In addition to the **NJPMP**, the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs has launched **Project Medicine Drop** in its fight against prescription drug abuse.

Project Medicine Drop offers members of the public the opportunity to dispose of their unused and expired prescription medications safely and securely, with participating municipal police departments. New Jerseyans can dispose of medication anonymously, seven days a week, 365 days a year, at any **Project Medicine Drop** location.

Consumers can learn the best ways to dispose of unused medications, and to keep medications safe within their homes, at the **Project Medicine Drop** website, www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/meddrop.

The site also links to a wealth of information about prescription drug abuse – including ways to talk with your family about drug abuse, and information for those struggling with addiction.



New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJPMP)

New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs
P.O. Box 45027
Newark, NJ 07101

www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/pmp
www.NJRxReport.com
800-242-5846
njpmpp@dca.lps.state.nj.us



NJPMPPbrochurepublic/2012

New Jersey Prescription Monitoring PROGRAM

For too many New Jerseyans, addiction begins in the medicine cabinet.



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State of New Jersey
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Consumer Affairs

The **New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJPMP)** is an important component of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs' effort to halt the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs.

The **NJPMP**, established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-45 et seq., is a statewide database that collects prescription data on Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) and Human Growth Hormone (HGH) dispensed in out-patient settings in New Jersey, and by out-of-state pharmacies dispensing into New Jersey.

Access to the **NJPMP** is granted to prescribers or pharmacists who are licensed by the State of New Jersey and in good standing with their respective licensing boards. Patient information in the **NJPMP** is intended to help prescribers and pharmacists provide better-informed patient care. The information will help supplement patient evaluations, confirm patients' drug histories, and document compliance with therapeutic regimens.

When prescribers or pharmacists identify a patient as potentially having an issue of concern regarding drug use, they are encouraged to help the patient locate assistance, and to take any other action the prescriber or pharmacist deems appropriate.



The **NJPMP** also serves as an effective tool for identifying those who fraudulently obtain prescription drugs or are otherwise involved in the criminal diversion of prescription medication.

The information reported to and made available through the **NJPMP** will help detect individuals who may be “doctor shopping” – visiting multiple doctors to obtain prescriptions for the same medication that they then have filled at different pharmacies, in order to obtain more of the prescribed substance than any one physician or pharmacist would allow.

The **NJPMP** will also aid in detecting “pill mills” – a doctor's office, clinic, or other healthcare facility that regularly colludes in the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances outside the scope of the prevailing standards of medical practice, and in violation of New Jersey law on the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances.

PATIENT PRIVACY

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs and its private contractor keep **NJPMP** patient information strictly confidential, in compliance with the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996* (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules.

Prescribers and pharmacists authorized to access the **NJPMP** must certify that they are seeking data solely for the purpose of providing healthcare to current patients. Authorized users agree that they will not provide access to the **NJPMP** to any other individuals, including members of their staff. Users who inappropriately disclose **NJPMP** information are subject to civil penalties of up to \$10,000 and disciplinary action by the individual's professional licensing board.

Any individual who suspects that another individual or entity has accessed or disclosed patient information in violation of the **NJPMP** Statute or HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules, should immediately contact the **NJPMP** Administrator at njpmpp@dca.lps.state.nj.us or call the Division of Consumer Affairs at **800-242-5846**.

