

The Division of Consumer Affairs recently mailed us a letter regarding new mandatory requirements relative to Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) prescribing. In order to assist all of us in complying with these requirements, the Informatics Team in conjunction with relevant stakeholders is evaluating various workflow changes (both operational and Epic) to make it easier for us to meet these new requirements. **Over the next couple of days, you will receive emails regarding these changes as we complete testing and operationalize these new workflows.**

Sign up for the NJ Prescription Monitoring Program Immediately:

TASK #1: The 1st task that we must accomplish is to register for the NJ Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). In order to comply with the **NEW MANDATORY PATIENT LOOK-UP REQUIREMENTS**, we need to **IMMEDIATELY** register for the NJ PMP platform at <https://newjersey.pmpaware.net/login>. You must have your NJ Medical License Number, NJ CDS Registration Number, Federal DEA Number handy in order to complete the registration.

Q: When should I access the NJ PMP?

A: Every time you write or renew a prescription for a Controlled Dangerous Substance.

Q. What happens to me if I am non-compliant with these new regulations?

A. Non-Compliance with these new mandatory obligations may result in disciplinary actions (ie: suspension of your professional license) and/or other penalties in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-49.

Q. Are there plans to integrate the NJ PMP into Epic?

A. Yes. We are working on accelerating that timeline in light of this new statutory requirement. Integration means that the patient's NJ PMP record including risk stratification will show up in Epic without having to log into a website and searching for the patient. In the interim, we are working with IT to enable single sign-on (SSO) for the NJ PMP website. This means that you will have to enter your username and password the first time you log into the website but the username and password fields will auto-populate each subsequent time you log in.

Q. Does NJ Law allow for delegates to access the PMP on my behalf?

A. Yes but you still need to register for the PMP in order to be able to authorize delegates. We need to make sure that every Physician and APP is registered because delegate access cannot be authorized unless you are registered as a licensed direct user. Delegate access can be given to House staff, Certified MAs and certain other clinical roles but there are certain requirements that we are reviewing including a mandatory biannual audit. Further details on delegate access will be sent in the near future.

Q. Are the links to the NJ PMP Website published on the Cooper Portal and Epic for easier access?

A. The NJ PMP link is available on the Cooper Portal under Application & Resource Website Links. The link is available to certain providers in Epic (IM and FP). We are working on making the link available to everybody.

Q. Does the prescription number only apply to me or does it apply to all prescribers? In other words, what if the prescriber for the Initial Prescription is a different provider from a different health system?

A. The prescription number algorithm is patient centric. Even if the Initial Prescription is written by another provider, you would still have to follow the algorithm for subsequent prescriptions. Hence, one of the reasons you have to check the PMP every time.

Q. Can I add a shortcut to my smartphone for the NJ PMP site?

A. Yes. Please see attached document for instructions.

What do I need to know about the New NJ Opioid Prescribing Emergency Rule?

On March 1st, the Attorney General of NJ and the NJ Board of Medical Examiners filed an Emergency Rule which took **effect immediately**.

Q: Is there an opioid prescribing algorithm that I need to follow?

A: Yes, we have reviewed the legislation and created a summary view. See attached documented titled – “NJ Opioid Prescribing Algorithm”

Q: The “NJ Opioid Prescribing Algorithm” document looks very complicated. Are there changes being made in Epic to support this new law?

A: Yes, Informatics in conjunction with various Cooper experts is working non-stop to create the necessary decision support tools within Epic to make it easier for us to be compliant with the new law. Details will be sent in a separate communication shortly. In the meantime, you need to be familiar with the law and the opioid prescribing algorithm.

Q: I heard that there is a required CME component to this new law. Is Cooper going to help me fulfill this requirement?

A: Yes, we are working on educational materials and an announcement will be made when the materials are ready.

Q: Should I refer my patients to pain management?

A: This is a clinical decision that you have to make. Referring every single patient is not the answer and will create significant access issues for those that truly require pain management. Please determine if there is medical necessity, use your clinical judgement and work with your clinical leadership to determine which patients should be referred to pain management. Please be aware that the law mandates pain management or addiction specialist referrals for independent evaluation or treatment in order to achieve treatment objectives, **if those objects are not currently being met by the patient.**