

Information for CDS Prescribers re Act 76 of the 2017 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature

Act 76 makes two important changes to the law governing health care practitioners who prescribe controlled dangerous substances.

1. Effective immediately:

- Prescribing practitioners applying for an initial controlled dangerous substance (CDS) license or renewing of such a license from the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy will be automatically registered as a participant in the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP).
- A prescriber or his/her delegate must access and review a patient's record in the PMP prior to prescribing any **opioid** for the patient, and must access and review the record in the PMP at least every 90 days if the patient's course of treatment continues for more than 90 days.
- The requirement does not apply if:
 - the drug is prescribed to a hospice or any other patient diagnosed as terminally ill;
 - the drug is prescribed or administered for the treatment of cancer-related chronic or intractable pain;
 - the drug is ordered or administered to a patient being treated in a hospital;
 - the PMP is not accessible or not functioning due to an electronic issue. However, the prescriber must check the PMP after electronic accessibility has been restored, and note the cause for the delay in the patient's chart; or
 - no more than a single 7-day supply of the drug is prescribed or administered to a patient.

2. Effective January 1, 2018:

As a condition to license renewal, all practitioners with a CDS license are required to obtain 3 hours of continuing education pertaining to drug diversion training, best practices regarding prescribing of controlled substances, appropriate treatment for addiction, and any other matters pertaining to the prescribing of CDS that are deemed appropriate by the licensing board. The CME is a one-time requirement and the 3 credit hours are considered among, and not in addition to, those required by the licensing board for license renewal. The CME requirement can be waived if the practitioner submits a certification form developed by the licensing board, attesting that she/he has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a CDS during the entire applicable reporting period. This certification will be verified by the board through the PMP.

The law makes professional licensing boards responsible for developing rules and enforcement of the new requirements.

NOTE: The Board is developing the required CME so that it may be taken and successfully completed in 2018 by physicians and its other licensees with CDS authority, in advance of license renewal in 2019. More information will be forthcoming on the Board's webpage in the coming months.