Frequently Asked Questions

I work in an emergency department and use the Emergency Department Information Exchange (EDIE) with PMP integration. Does reviewing this report qualify as checking the PMP for purposes of opioid prescribing compliance?

Yes. We recognize the benefit the EDIE interface has had in improving the care for patients in Washington’s emergency departments. Review of an EDIE report (or the lack of a report being generated because of no qualifying data) qualifies as compliance with checking the PMP.

Does using an electronic health records system (e.g. EPIC) with integrated PMP data qualify as checking the PMP for purposes of opioid prescribing compliance?

Yes. We recognize the benefit of integrating the PMP directly with the electronic health record and agree that use of an integrated report that connects to the PMP qualifies for purposes with checking the PMP.

Do I have to copy the content of the electronic PMP information permanently stored in the electronic health record into my clinical note and duplicate that information?

If the information contained in the PMP is permanently stored in the electronic health record or the medical record via either a direct PMP connection or via EDIE, then the provider does not need to duplicate the information into the clinical note. If the provider relies on the information in the PMP for making a determination about care, pertinent concerns discovered in the PMP must be documented in the patient record.

Who is considered an “authorized designee” for completing the required PMP checks and what is the responsibility associated with a “PMP query”?

Having created their own PMP account, any healthcare provider credentialed by the Washington State Department of Health may be delegated by a prescriber or pharmacist to perform patient PMP queries. Delegates must use their own PMP account for this activity (PMP accounts are confidential to the account owner). The prescriber or pharmacist must select the delegate account(s) to be authorized on the system. How to Manage Delegate Accounts (YouTube - 2 minutes, 31 seconds) is a short PMP education video that shows the steps for selecting a delegate account. For example, medical assistants may perform this query on behalf of prescribers.

If I check the PMP separately via the Secure Access Washington (SAW) portal (or my designated staff member does), what do I need to document in my electronic health record to reflect compliance with the new opioid prescribing requirements?

If a provider chooses to manually review the information directly on the PMP system via the SAW portal, there are options to appropriately document the check. The requirement is to document the PMP check, which can be done by printing and placing a hard copy of the report in the patient record or uploading a PDF version. This can also be done by making a notation in the patient’s record, whether hard copy or electronic. The prescriber must note pertinent concerns discovered in the PMP in patient record.
Do I have to register for the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) if I work for an organization that has integrated the PMP data?

Yes.* Any provider who intends to prescribe an opioid in Washington State must individually register with the Prescription Monitoring Program. Washington’s use of the Health Information Exchange (HIE) to provide PMP integration to your EHR system is designed to ensure your access to patient PMP data within your EHR workflow and at the lowest possible burden. Prescribers should log in to their PMP system account periodically to ensure they remain familiar with accessing and using their system account.

*An exception to individual provider PMP registration in Washington Medical Commission rules states: “The physician shall register to access the PMP or demonstrate proof of having assured access to the PMP if they prescribe Schedule II-V medications in Washington State.”

Who should I contact with questions about PMP use requirements for my profession? Who should I contact about how to use and run reports on the PMP system?

Please contact your board or commission program manager. All contact information is on the Department of Health website [here](https://www.doh.wa.gov/pmp).

Your licensing authority, board, or commission is the best source for questions and information about required use of PMP under opioid prescribing rules. [Here’s a good place to start](https://www.doabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz](https://www.doh.wa.gov/healthit). The PMP helpdesk is available to assist with PMP registration and answer questions about how to use the PMP system. Contact the PMP helpdesk by email at PrescriptionMonitoring@doh.wa.gov or by phone at 360-236-4806.

Where can I get more information about making PMP access easier by integrating PMP to my EHR system?

The department accepts electronic requests for PMP data from authorized users via healthcare organizations that are a trading partner of OneHealthPort, which administers Washington State’s Health Information Exchange (HIE). The PMP has been designated a public health specialized registry, so those interested in pursuing meaningful use incentives may receive credit for this integration.

More information is available here:
- [www.doh.wa.gov/PMP](https://www.doh.wa.gov/PMP)
- [www.doh.wa.gov/HealthIT](https://www.doh.wa.gov/HealthIT)

360-236-2901 | prescriptionmonitoring@doh.wa.gov
www.doh.wa.gov/pmp

Resources

- 2018 Opioid Prescribing Rules
  [www.doh.wa.gov/opioidprescribing](https://www.doh.wa.gov/opioidprescribing)

- Department of Health PMP website
  [www.doh.wa.gov/pmp](https://www.doh.wa.gov/pmp)

- More information concerning integration with EHRs
  [www.doh.wa.gov/healthit](https://www.doh.wa.gov/healthit)