

Dear Licensee:

Please review this important information regarding the various topics listed below.

Subject: Board of Medicine Emergency Regulations for Prescribing Opioids and Buprenorphine

In response to the escalating opioid crisis in Virginia – and recently passed [legislation](#) – the Board of Medicine has promulgated regulations on the prescribing of opioids for pain and buprenorphine for treatment of substance abuse. The emergency regulations will remain in effect from March 15, 2017 to March 19, 2018 and will be replaced by permanent regulations during that time. A letter from Dr. William Harp, Executive Director of the Board [summarizes the intent and content of these new regulations](#). Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians should familiarize themselves with the new prescribing requirements. Additionally, pharmacies may begin experiencing an increased number of prescriptions written for naloxone. [View Regulations Governing the Prescribing of Opioids and Buprenorphine](#)

Subject: Dispensing of Gabapentin Now Required to be Reported to Virginia's Prescription Monitoring Program

As a result of legislation passed by the 2017 General Assembly ([House Bill 2164](#)) and signed into law by the Governor, the dispensing of gabapentin is now required to be reported to the Virginia Prescription Monitoring Program. The legislation has an enactment clause declaring that an emergency exists and is in force from the signing of the legislation on February 23, 2017. Please share this information with your colleagues and software application vendor. Reporting of gabapentin dispensing is required to begin immediately and include all dispensing since the legislation was signed on February 23, 2017. If your pharmacy or practice currently has a waiver from reporting to the PMP but gabapentin is being dispensed then a new account development form must be [submitted](#) to pmp@dhp.virginia.gov or faxed to 804-527-4470.

For questions pertaining to reporting data to the PMP: Toll-free number for Appriss: 1-855-482-4767 Create a support request using the following URL <https://apprisspmpclearinghouse.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new> For detailed data submission requirements: [Virginia Data Submission Dispenser Guide](#)

Subject: Naloxone Brochure Updated

The brochure to be provided when pharmacists dispense naloxone has recently been updated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to include directions for administering Narcan nasal spray. Please make copies of the revised brochure to have on-hand for counseling patients on how to identify an opioid overdose and the proper administration of naloxone.

Subject: New Reporting Requirements for Virginia's Prescription Monitoring Program Beginning July 1, 2017

New regulations pertaining to reporting requirements to the Virginia Prescription Monitoring Program became effective January 25, 2017. To see the entire regulation [please click here](#). Reporting under this updated regulation is required beginning July 1, 2017. Please share this information with your colleagues and software application vendors.

Major changes to reporting requirements:

- ASAP version 4.2 becomes the new reporting standard on July 1, 2017. Files reported using ASAP 4.1 will not be accepted.
- New required data elements:
 - The National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the prescriber
 - Whether the prescription is a partial fill
 - The gender code
 - The species code
 - The Electronic Prescription Reference Number, and the Electronic Prescription Order Number if an electronic prescription

Please do not reply to this automated message. Questions for the Board of Pharmacy may be directed to pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov Questions for the PMP may be directed to pmp@dhp.virginia.gov

Thank you.
Virginia Board of Pharmacy