



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Virginia's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Database Stronger with New Access to Opioid Prescription History from Military Hospitals and Clinics** Virginia first state tapped by Department of Defense to Fight Opioid Crisis through Technology

RICHMOND--Virginia's Prescription Monitoring Program, or [PMP](#), [announces its new ability](#) to share the prescription history of Military Treatment Facility patients under an agreement with the [US Department of Defense Health Agency](#).

Virginia's PMP database was already interoperable with 32 jurisdictions including its border states and the District of Columbia, but this is the first time that Department of Defense (DOD) information has become available. As a result, in a state with the third largest military population, both civilian and uniformed prescribers and pharmacists have access to one of the foremost systems nationwide to inform the prescribing and dispensing of controlled medications to improve patient care.

The PMP is a secure, confidential database available to prescribers and pharmacists to inform treatment decisions, help avoid addicting or dangerous drug combinations and eliminate the over prescribing of covered drugs including opioids, benzodiazepines and stimulants. The PMP also tracks the dispensing of gabapentin and naloxone. Law enforcement and health profession licensing boards also use Virginia's PMP to support investigations related to doctor shopping, diversion and inappropriate prescribing and dispensing.

Department of Health Professions (DHP) Director, David Brown says, "Virginia is proud of its commitment to keep people safe from opioid overdose and abuse, including active duty, retired members of the military and their dependents. The new agreement is a continuation of the work of Virginia's PMP to provide pharmacists and prescribers on the front lines with the best possible information to meet the needs of their patients."

According to PMP Director, Ralph Orr, "The data available is retroactive to December 20, 2018 and is accessed in the same way a prescriber or pharmacist would currently request prescription information from another state's PMP. With over 50,000 healthcare providers in Virginia registered to use the system, the addition of information regarding prescriptions filled at Military Treatment Facilities on PMP reports will help save more lives."

DHP's mission is to ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice and providing information to healthcare practitioners and the public.

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