

Contact: Diane Powers
Diane.powers@dhp.virginia.gov
804/367-4524
Teresa Bonifas
Teresa.bonifas@dhp.virginia.gov
804/367-4535

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Media Advisory

**VIRGINIA'S PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM NOW INTEROPERABLE WITH
TENNESSEE**

New technology expands reach of Virginia prescribers and pharmacists in the fight against prescription drug abuse.

RICHMOND – At a time when drug deaths outnumber motor vehicle fatalities, Virginia's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) continues to leverage online technology to assist in the fight against drug diversion and prescription drug abuse. As a member of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Prescription Monitoring Program InterConnect (PMPi) Program, Virginia's PMP is able to share prescription information across state lines and welcomes Tennessee as its newest partner.

Virginia's PMP collects prescription data on Schedule II-IV drugs with the mission of promoting the appropriate use of controlled substances for legitimate medical purposes while deterring their misuse, abuse, and diversion. Registered users may query the database to assist in determining a patient's prescription history and to rule out the possibility that a patient is doctor shopping or abusing drugs.

Since Tennessee's inclusion, Virginia's PMP has seen a dramatic increase in registered user requests. During the first week of Tennessee's PMPi interoperability, Virginia's PMP had 5,300 PMPi requests from other states with 3,600 requests coming from Tennessee. Prior to Tennessee, on average, Virginia received slightly more than 2,000 requests per week from PMPi states.

Additionally, Virginia's PMP introduced a new service for registered prescribers allowing them to request their prescribing history for the last 90 days. This feature is meant to assist them in reviewing their prescribing history to monitor possible misuse of their DEA registration by others.

For more information regarding Virginia's PMP or to register, visit the PMP home page at http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/dhp_programs/pmp/default.asp and click on "Access to PMP Data Center". If you are a qualified prescriber or dispenser fill out the form and become a registered user.

PMP is a program of the Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP) which licenses, regulates and disciplines Virginia's more than 350,000 healthcare practitioners across more than 80 professions including those who prescribe or dispense controlled substances. DHP's mission is to ensure safe and competent patient care by licensing health professionals, enforcing standards of practice and providing information to health care practitioners and the public.

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