



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

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New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

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Dear Prescriber,

In July, Governor Chris Christie signed Senate Bill 1998 into law (P.L.2015, c.74) which substantially revises the scope and expands the capabilities of the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP). The Division of Consumer Affairs is tasked with implementing the new law, which takes effect on **November 1, 2015**. We anticipate that not all provisions of the statute will be fully effective on that date, due to the need to make technological enhancements to the NJMPMP. In addition, some requirements may be deferred, awaiting necessary clarification to be provided in regulations that will need to be proposed and adopted in accordance with the required rule-making process. But there are a few important steps that prescribers can take **now** to be ready to comply with the new law.

All prescribers holding CDS Registrations will need to register to access the NJMPMP prior to the upcoming renewal of their CDS Registrations. If you renewed your NJ CDS registration last year, a NJMPMP account was automatically created for you. But you must take some steps to activate your NJMPMP account, if you have not already done so:

- 1) You must complete a short on-line tutorial; and
- 2) You must establish a unique email address that you check on a regular basis – separate from a general office e-mail or service e-mail;

If you renewed on-line, please call: 866-683-2476 or email: njrxreport@otech.com for assistance with activating your account. If you received your CDS Registration by application, not via the on-line renewal, please visit www.njrxreport.com to register for the NJMPMP.

Activating this account will be essential in complying with another significant provision of the new law. Unless an exemption applies, prescribers (or their delegates) will be required to review prescription monitoring information when they prescribe a Schedule II medication to a new or current patient for acute or chronic pain, the first time they prescribe and quarterly thereafter. Regulations, now being developed, will provide additional guidance with respect to this requirement.

In addition, the new law expands the types of licensed professionals who are authorized to access the NJMPMP for patient data (i.e., Medical Examiners, medical and dental residents, and mental health practitioners). Criminal penalties for inappropriate access and misuse of NJMPMP data also have been increased.

All prescribers are encouraged to regularly check the Division's website, the relevant professional Board's website, and/or official Board and trade newsletters for updates regarding the Division's implementation of the new NJMPMP law.

Sincerely,

Steve C. Lee
Acting Director
Division of Consumer Affairs