

Arizona's Forty-eighth Legislature passed House Bill 2136 requiring the Board of Pharmacy to establish a Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP). The bill also requires any practitioner who *dispenses* a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, III, or IV to report certain information to the CSPMP at the Board of Pharmacy on a weekly basis. The new statutes, Title 36, Chapter 28 are available on the Board's website under the "rules and statutes" link : www.azpharmacy.gov/rules.html .

On November 30, 2007, the Board sent correspondence to all Arizona practitioners with a current DEA registration. It included a form with the address and other information the Board obtained from the DEA registration data. The letter asks the practitioner to verify the data we have on file for them and to let us know of corrections we need to make to the data. We asked that practitioners return the form to the Board of Pharmacy no later than December 31, 2007 even if no changes are necessary.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's) :

What does DISPENSE mean?

If a practitioner stocks Schedule II, III, and IV non-sample drugs and dispenses the drugs to patients or animals for use at home, then the practitioner will eventually be required to provide certain information about the dispensed drugs to the CSPMP on a regular basis. *Dispensing information related to samples or office administration of drugs is exempt from the reporting requirements.*

If you are a dispensing practitioner subject to the reporting requirement, check the “yes” box on the form, and you will be contacted by the CSPMP before the program is implemented in June or July of 2008 so that we can coordinate the collection of the information about the drugs dispensed.

If you are a practitioner who only writes prescriptions (prescribes), check the “no” box on the form. Remember that this does not affect your use of samples or any office administration of the drugs.

Once the CSPMP system is implemented, practitioners will receive instructions on how they may access the database. The program will eventually allow a practitioner to access their patient's controlled substance prescription information to help them to treat an existing patient or evaluate whether to treat a potential patient.

Do I need to return the form?

Yes, the Board of Pharmacy needs to verify that the information on file is correct, and needs to add any missing information. Also we need to know who is or is not actually dispensing Schedule II, III, and IV drugs to patients for take home use.

Does DISPENSE include the distribution of samples or administration of drugs in the office?

No, the distribution of samples is specifically exempt.

No, the administration of drugs in the office is not dispensing.

What do I do if I DISPENSE drugs to patients for take home use?

Nothing is required now; you will be contacted before the program is implemented to coordinate the collection of the required data.