



# MARYLAND Department of Health

*Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary*

May 23, 2018

Dear Maryland Medical Professional:

As Maryland, along with the rest of the country, continues to grapple with the opioid epidemic, the Department of Health wants to ensure you are equipped with the most current information regarding the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and the law guiding its implementation and use. We view the PDMP as an important tool to help combat this public health epidemic.

Effective July 1, 2018, Maryland law requires CDS prescribers and pharmacists to request and to assess data from the PDMP in certain prescribing and dispensing situations. Attached are important documents explaining the PDMP Use Mandate for prescribers. They outline when the PDMP must be checked and in which cases possible exceptions to this mandate may be made. Additional resources to assist prescribers and their delegates will be made available online at [www.MarylandPDMP.org](http://www.MarylandPDMP.org).

We are also including the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for pain management. These guidelines address the prescribing of opioids as well as other treatments for chronic pain to help improve patient care and reduce risks.

Finally, you are receiving information about the codes to use for screening and billing for suicide risk assessment. Through use of these screening tools, primary care providers can play a critical role in identifying those who may be having suicidal thoughts.

The Maryland Department of Health values your partnership. We will continue to provide all medical professionals with information needed to combat this public health crisis. Thank you for your cooperation and compliance.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall  
Secretary

Attachments