



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D., Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

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June 12, 2018

Thomas P. Godfrey, President  
Georgia Board of Dentistry  
2 Peachtree Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

E. Dan DeLoach, Chairman  
Georgia Composite Medical Board  
2 Peachtree Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Janice Izlar, President  
Georgia Board of Nursing  
237 Coliseum Drive  
Macon, GA 331217

Leonard LaRussa, Chairman  
Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners  
237 Coliseum Drive  
Macon, GA 31217

Karen Canupp, President  
Georgia Board of Optometry  
237 Coliseum Drive  
Macon, GA 31217-3858

**RE: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program: Certification**

Dear State Board Partners,

In accordance with **Code Section 16-13-57(d)**, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) arranged for the random testing of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) during the period Jan.1 - May 31, 2018. The testing revealed that the PDMP was accessible and operational at least 99.5 percent of that time. I therefore certify that Georgia's PDMP is operational, and request that you publish this certification on your public websites.

Since the management of the PDMP transferred to DPH July 1, 2017, we are pleased to announce that all legislative requirements have been met along with the following enhancements:

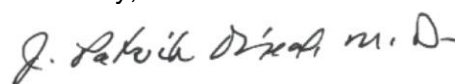
- Developed and distributed a "how to" video and instructional sheet for prescribers to help navigate the PDMP that is available online and upon request for any GA PDMP user.
- Registered over 22,000 new system users – up from 20,832 registered during the previous five years.
- Hosted a one-day work session with Brandeis University, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to examine national PDMP best practices and to consider ways to improve the Georgia PDMP.
- Implemented automated system generated Clinical Alerts to inform prescribers of their patients'-controlled substance prescriptions.

- The first GA PDMP Report that will be distributed later in 2018. Electronic copies will be available on the DPH website when completed.
- Adding to the list of states with whom we share PDMP data to strengthen the information that prescribers have available to them, and can be used as part of their patient treatment program.

We are excited about our role as administrator of the Georgia PDMP, and ready to assist prescribers in meeting their patient search requirements beginning July 1, 2018.

Thank you for your continued support as we work collectively to end the opioid epidemic in Georgia.

Sincerely,



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D.  
Commissioner and State Health Officer

Cc: Sheila Pierce, Director  
Georgia Prescription Drug Management Program

Tanja D. Battle, Executive Director  
Georgia Boards of Dentistry and Pharmacy

Jim Cleghorn, Executive Director  
Georgia Board of Nursing

Adrienne D. Price, Executive Director  
Office of Secretary of State – Professional Licensing Boards Division

LaSharn Hughes, Interim Executive Director  
Georgia Composite Medical Board

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director  
Office of Secretary of State – Professional Licensing Boards Division