Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Glossary of Terms and Organizations

This document is a compilation of terms and acronyms used by and for Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs. Additional information may be found on the Brandeis University PDMP TTAC website at http://www.pdmpassist.org/content/pdmp-acronyms-terms or the ONC Health IT Playbook glossary at https://www.healthit.gov/playbook/glossary/.

AATOD (American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence)
AATOD was founded in 1984 to enhance the quality of patient care in treatment programs by promoting the growth and development of comprehensive methadone treatment services throughout the United States.

ARCOS (Automation of Reports and Consolidative Order System)
ARCOS is an automated, comprehensive drug reporting system operated by DEA. ARCOS is designed to monitor the flow of and provides a comprehensive tracking beginning at the manufacturer and ending with dispensing.

ASAP (American Society for Automation in Pharmacy)
A national organization that develops reporting standards for pharmacies and other dispensers to report prescription data to PDMPs

ASPMP (Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs)
The Alliance was formed in 1990 to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among prescription monitoring programs.

ATTC (Addiction Technology Transfer Center)
The ATTC develops and strengthens the workforce which provides addictions treatment and recovery services to those entering the treatment system. The ATTC Network consists of 14 Regional Centers and a National Office.

Authentication
The process of verifying the identity and credentials of a person before authorizing access to prescription data.
BJA (Bureau of Justice Assistance)

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. BJA supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation’s criminal justice system.

BOP (Board of Pharmacy)

State-specific government entities, often under the state Department of Health, that oversee the practice of pharmacy.

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

CDC is one of the major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services. CDC’s mission is to collaborate to create the expertise, information, and tools that people and communities need to protect their health – through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats.

CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), previously known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), is a federal agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that administers the Medicare program and works in partnership with state governments to administer Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and health insurance portability standards. In addition to these programs, CMS has other responsibilities, including the administrative simplification standards from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), quality standards in long-term care facilities (more commonly referred to as nursing homes) through its survey and certification process, clinical laboratory quality standards under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, and oversight of HealthCare.gov.COE (PDMP Center of Excellence).

COE (PDMP Center of Excellence)

The COE is within the Heller School for Social and Policy Management at Brandeis University and is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. In collaboration with the PDMP Training and Technical Assistance Center, the COE provides academically sound information, evaluation and expertise to PDMPs. The COE also collaborates with a wide variety of PDMP stakeholders, including federal and state governments and agencies, universities, health departments and medical and pharmacy boards.

Controlled Substances

Certain drugs or substances whose possession and use are regulated by federal Controlled Substances Act and 21CFR Part 1300 and state law because of their potential
for abuse and diversion. States may impose their own determination of what drugs are controlled substances by statute, so long as it is not less stringent than the federal classification. For example, tramadol (before it was reclassified to the controlled substance category by the DEA) was classified as a controlled substance by many states.

**Controlled Substance Schedule**

A hierarchy of classification of controlled substances determined by the DEA. Schedules are designated by roman numerals I, II, III, IV, V.

**Schedule I**: A substance, with *no legitimate medical purpose*, that has a highest potential for physiological and psychological dependence. Illicit drugs, such as crack cocaine, MDMA, peyote, methamphetamine or heroin are contained in this schedule.

**Schedule II, III, IV, V**: Drugs in this category *have a legitimate medical purpose* and have *descending potential for abuse*. Schedule II is the highest of this group and Schedule V the lowest.

**CSAT (Center for Substance Abuse Treatment)**

CSAT is part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). CSAT promotes the quality and availability of community-based substance abuse treatment services for individuals and families who need them. CSAT works with States and community-based groups to improve and expand existing substance abuse treatment services under the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Program. CSAT also supports SAMHSA’s free treatment referral service to link people with the community-based substance abuse services they need.

**CSG (Council of State Governments)**

CSG is the nation's only organization serving all three branches of state government. CSG is a region-based forum that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy.

**DAWN (Drug Abuse Warning Network)**

DAWN is a public health surveillance system that monitors drug-related hospital emergency department (ED) visits and drug-related deaths to track the impact of drug use, misuse, and abuse in the U.S. The DAWN system is operated and managed by SAMHSA.

**DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration)**

DEA is within the U.S. Department of Justice. The mission of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States, or
any other competent jurisdiction, those organizations and principal members of
organizations, involved in the growing, manufacture, or distribution of controlled
substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States; and to
recommend and support non-enforcement programs aimed at reducing the availability
of illicit controlled substances on the domestic and international markets.

Dispensers

The entities that must submit data to the PDMP for drugs they have dispensed. This
includes pharmacies (both in and out of state), hospitals, prescribers (including
veterinarians), and correctional facilities.

DOJ (Department of Justice)

DOJ’s mission is to enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States
according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to
provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment
for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of
justice for all Americans.

FDA (Food and Drug Administration)

FDA is a federal agency charged with protecting the public health by ensuring the safety,
efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical
devices; ensuring the safety of foods, cosmetics, and radiation-emitting products; and
regulating tobacco products. The FDA is responsible for classifying and determining the
appropriate schedule for all regulated drugs in the United States.

FSMB (Federation of State Medical Boards)

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is a national nonprofit representing the 70
medical and osteopathic boards of the United States and its territories. Since its founding,
the FSMB has grown in the range of services it provides – from assessment tools to policy
documents, from credentialing to disciplinary alert services – while continuing to serve the
interests of its member boards. The ultimate objective is to promote excellence in medical
practice, licensure, and regulation as the national resource and voice on behalf of state
medical boards in their protection of the public.

FTP (File Transfer Protocol)

A standard network protocol used for the transfer of computer files between a client
and server on a computer network. See also SFTP.

GAO (U.S. Government Accountability Office)

GAO is an independent, nonpartisan agency that works for Congress. Often called the
"congressional watchdog," GAO investigates how the federal government spends
taxpayer dollars. The head of GAO, the Comptroller General of the United States, is
appointed to a 15-year term by the President from a slate of candidates Congress proposes.

HHS (Department of Health and Human Services)

HHS is the United States government’s principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. HHS administers the Medicare program which is the nation’s largest health insurer, handling more than 1 billion claims per year.

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)

HIPAA is a federal law enacted in 1996 and provides federal protections for personal health information held by covered entities and gives patients an array of rights with respect to that information. At the same time, HIPAA is balanced so that it permits the disclosure of personal health information needed for patient care and other important purposes.

HL7 (Health Level-7)

A not-for-profit organization that develops a set of international standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services.

HRPDMP (Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program)

HRPDMP is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. HRPDMP provides three categories of grants: planning, implementation, and enhancement. To be eligible for funding, the state must already have a statute or regulation permitting the establishment of a PDMP.

IHS (Indian Health Service)

IHS is an agency within the federal Department of Health and Human Services, that is responsible for providing federal health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The provision of health services to members of federally-recognized tribes grew out of the special government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes.

IJIS (Integrated Justice Information Systems Institute)

IJIS Institute is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to joining forces with its Member companies to unite the private and public sectors for improving mission-critical information sharing. The IJIS Institute is funded by its members and by grants from the

Interstate Compact (Prescription Monitoring Program Compact)

The Council of State Governments (CSG) has drafted a new interstate compact that would enable states to develop an interoperable system to share prescription data. Since November 2009, CSG has worked with a variety of federal, state and local officials as well as national stakeholder organizations representing a variety of prescription monitoring programs nationwide.

Interstate Data Sharing

The sharing of PDMP reports by one state with another state based on a request of an authorized person (i.e. practitioner, pharmacist) or agency (i.e. regulatory boards, law enforcement).

Legend Drug

A medication approved by the U.S. FDA that are required by federal or state law to be dispensed to the public pursuant to a prescription from a licensed practitioner.

Medication Reconciliation

The process of creating the most accurate list possible of all medications a patient is taking — including drug name, dosage, frequency, and route — and comparing that list against the physician’s admission, transfer, and/or discharge orders, with the goal of providing correct medications to the patient at all transition points within the hospital and the continuum of care.

Model Act (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Model Act)

The Model Act, prepared by the Alliance, provides a statutory framework for establishing and operating a PDMP. It also provides a framework for states with existing PDMPs to update their statutes. The Model Act is a consensus document that reflects the best practices of the states that currently run PDMPs as well as the knowledge of other states that have a long-standing interest in PDMPs.

NABP (National Association of Boards of Pharmacy)

NABP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that protects public health by assisting its member boards of pharmacy and offers programs that promote safe pharmacy practices for the benefit of consumers. NABP is the independent, international, and impartial association that assists its member boards and jurisdictions for the purpose of protecting the public health.

NAMSDL (National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws)
NAMSDL is a resource for governors, state legislators, attorneys general, drug and alcohol professionals, community leaders, the recovering community, and others striving for comprehensive, effective state drug and alcohol laws and policies. NAMSDL will draft, research, and analyze model drug and alcohol laws and related state statutes; provide access to our national network of drug and alcohol experts; and facilitate working relationships among state and community leaders and drug and alcohol professionals.

NASCSA (National Association of State Controlled Substance Authorities)

NASCSA has a primary purpose to provide a continuing mechanism through which state and federal agencies, as well as others can work to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of state and national efforts to prevent and control drug diversion and abuse, and to provide an educational forum to further this purpose.

NASPER (National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act)

NASPER is a federal law passed in 2005 which established a grant program for PDMPs within the Federal Department of Health and Human Services.

NCPDP (National Council for Prescription Drug Programs)

An ANSI-accredited, organization providing standards for electronic healthcare transactions used in prescribing, dispensing, monitoring, managing, and paying for medications and pharmacy services.

NCSL (National Conference of State Legislatures)

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation’s 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issue

NDC (National Drug Code)

Federal law requires drug products be identified and reported by drug manufactures to the FDA using a unique, three-segment number, called the National Drug Code (NDC), which is a universal product identifier for human drugs. FDA inputs the full NDC number and the information submitted as part of the listing process into a database known as the Drug Registration and Listing System (DRLS). Each listed drug product is assigned a unique 10-digit, 3-segment number. This NDC number identifies the labeler, product, and trade package size.

NSDUH (National Survey on Drug Use and Health)

NSDUH provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including non-medical use of prescription drugs) and mental health in the United
States. NSDUH is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency of the U.S. Public Health Service in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

OJP (Office of Justice Programs)

OJP provides innovative leadership to federal, state, local, and tribal justice systems, by disseminating state-of-the-art knowledge and practices across America, and providing grants for the implementation of these crime fighting strategies. Because most of the responsibility for crime control and prevention falls to law enforcement officers in states, cities, and neighborhoods, the federal government can be effective in these areas only to the extent that it can enter into partnerships with these officers. Therefore, OJP does not directly carry out law enforcement and justice activities. Instead, OJP works in partnership with the justice community to identify the most pressing crime-related challenges confronting the justice system and to provide information, training, coordination, and innovative strategies and approaches for addressing these challenges.

ONC (Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology)

ONC ONC is the principal federal entity within the US Department of Health & Human Services charged with coordination of nationwide efforts to implement and use the most advanced health information technology and the electronic exchange of health information. The position of National Coordinator was created in 2004, through an Executive Order, and legislatively mandated in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act) of 2009.

ONDSCP (Office of National Drug Control Policy)

ONDSCP is a component of the Executive Office of the President. The principal purpose of ONDCP is to establish policies, priorities, and objectives for the Nation's drug control program. The goals of the program are to reduce illicit drug use, manufacturing, and trafficking, drug-related crime and violence, and drug-related health consequences.

Opioids

Pain-reducing drugs that are chemically or structurally similar to opium and interact with opioid (mu-receptors) in the brain and body, producing morphine-like effects. Opioids include legal prescription drugs such as morphine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, oxycodone. Illegal opioids include heroin.

OTC (Over-the-Counter)
A drug that is safe and effective for use by the general public without supervision or treatment by a health professional and does not require a prescription

PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program)

A state administered system of collecting, monitoring, and disseminating information regarding dispensed controlled substances, such as opioids, benzodiazepines, stimulants, and other selected prescription drugs (drugs of concern).

PMP (Prescription Monitoring Program)

Used interchangeably by some states/organizations with PDMP. See PDMP Used in some unrelated venues as Project Management Professional

PMP Gateway

PMP Gateway connects to PMP Interconnect, providing an interface for healthcare providers to query patient prescription data.

PMPi (NABP PMP InterConnect)

NABP PMP InterConnect® facilitates the transfer of prescription monitoring program (PMP) data across state lines. It allows participating state PMPs across the United States to be linked, providing a more effective means of combating drug diversion and drug abuse nationwide.

The benefits of state PMPs are enhanced by PMP InterConnect because the system provides the means for physicians and pharmacists to more easily identify patients with prescription drug abuse and misuse problems, especially if those patients are crossing state lines to obtain drugs. Utilizing the program’s connected web of information allows appropriate intervention and aid in the prevention of substance abuse and diversion of controlled substances.

PMIX (Prescription Monitoring Information Exchange)

The Prescription Monitoring Information Exchange (PMIX) National Architecture is a formal set of technical requirements that existing and future interstate data hubs need to comply with to enable hub to hub communication. A critical component of the architecture is the use of open standards (IT design elements that are in the public domain and available free of charge). Adopting open standards helps ensure a state’s ability to remain flexible and reduce costs.

Prescribers
Prescribers are those who have the authority to prescribe controlled substances and are typically the group that requests the most solicited reports from a PDMP. This group can include: Medical Doctors, Osteopathic Doctors, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Dentists, Veterinarians, Naturopathic Doctors, Optometrists, and Podiatrists.

RxCheck Hub

The RxCheck hub is the baseline implementation of the PMIX architecture and was developed, with BJA support, to create an operational data sharing hub to implement the PMIX specifications and to deliver a functional, interstate, data-sharing solution. The RxCheck hub was designed with the involvement of the state PMP practitioner community, private industry, and the Federal government, and has its roots in the pilot exchange between Ohio and Kentucky.

The IJIS Institute now hosts the RxCheck hub. The RxCheck Governance group (comprised of states connected to, or with plans to connect to, the RxCheck hub) continues to own the hub and provides guidance, stewardship, and leadership. The IJIS Institute manages the RxCheck hub and operates as an agent of the RxCheck Governance group in its maintenance and operation.

SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)

SAMHSA is a branch of the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and oversees the NASPER grant program. SAMHSA’s mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. In order to achieve this mission, SAMHSA has identified 8 Strategic Initiatives to focus the Agency's work on improving lives and capitalizing on emerging opportunities.

SFTP (Secure File Transfer Protocol)

Secure File Transfer Protocol (also referred to as “SSH File Transfer Protocol”); provides file transfer and manipulation functionality over any reliable data stream

Solicited Reporting

A product of a PDMP where PDMP data is provided to an authorized user based upon their request for the information from the PDMP. The reports can be produced through an automated online system or manually by PDMP staff. Entities that receive these reports can include: prescribers, dispensers, law enforcement, and regulatory boards.

SSL

Secure Sockets Layer; cryptographic protocol that provides secure communications for data transfers

TTAC (Training and Technical Assistance Center)
The TTAC is a partnership of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and Brandeis University’s Heller School for Social Policy and Management. The partnership is funded by BJA to provide assistance and training to government and other entities regarding PDMPs. The TTAC is helping BJA grantees and others in planning, implementing and enhancing prescription drug monitoring programs.

Universal Claim Form (UCF)
Electronic form used by a pharmacy that has Internet access, but is unable to submit its data in a batch upload

Unsolicited Reporting (also known as proactive reporting)
A product of a PDMP where the prescription information is analyzed by PDMP staff and questionable activities are then reported to appropriate personnel based on thresholds established by the PDMP. Entities that receive these reports can include: prescribers, dispensers, law enforcement, and regulatory boards