



House Bill 88 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program - Revisions Letter of Information

Dear Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committees:

House Bill 88 (HB 88) would *require*, instead of authorize, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) to review prescription monitoring data for indications of misuse or abuse of a monitored prescription drug. It also would, under certain circumstances, require the PDMP to report the possible misuse or abuse to the prescriber or dispenser of the monitored prescription drug, and require the program to provide education to the prescriber or dispenser of the monitored prescription drug. Among other provisions, the bill would authorize the PDMP to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency or health occupations board of a possible violation of law or breach of professional standards by a prescriber or dispenser.

The Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) supported 2016 legislation mandating registration and query of the PDMP. Since implementation of that law there has been a significant amount of work to ensure providers and prescribers are aware of and in compliance with the PDMP's registration requirements that went into effect on July 1, 2017. MHA has supported this effort by disseminating information through jointly sponsored webinars and letters to all of Maryland's hospitals. MHA appreciates the work underway by the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) to ensure that the PDMP is functionally ready to support the requirement that, by July 1, 2018, prescribers query and assess the prescription monitoring data before prescribing an opioid.

MHA recognizes that some of the provisions of HB 88 could ultimately improve the effectiveness of the PDMP. However, we recommend that the Maryland Department of Health continue to work with CRISP and provider partners to implement the mandatory registration and use deadlines, and enhance the operational coordination and effectiveness of the Office of Controlled Substances Administration (the unit of MDH that enforces controlled and dangerous substance laws and issues permits). Provisions that increase the responsibility of the PDMP, such as those in HB 88, would best be implemented after the system has demonstrated it can effectively handle the increased utilization.

We will continue to look for ways to work with the Department to maximize the effectiveness of the PDMP.