

Enhancing Access to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

Prescription drug misuse and overdose is one of the fastest growing health issues in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared non-medical prescription drug deaths an epidemic as the numbers begin to exceed traffic fatalities. This national problem was formally addressed by the White House Roundtable on Health IT and Prescription Drug Abuse in June 2011.

This project will identify opportunities to use health information technology (IT) to increase timely access to prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs). PDMPs are statewide databases that collect data on dispensed controlled substances and make that information available to authorized individuals involved in patient care so that they have a more complete picture of a patient's controlled substance history.

Overview

This project will focus on enhancing access to PDMP data in three settings with great potential to reduce prescription drug misuse and overdose with enhanced access to information:

- Provider practices
- Emergency department physicians
- Dispensing pharmacies

The objective is to identify specific opportunities to make information available in real time, at the point of decision making. Both work groups and pilot studies will be used as part of this effort.

The project is managed by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and MITRE.

