



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 15, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB1227 – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Dispensers - Veterinarians – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB) 1227 – Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Dispensers - Veterinarians. This bill will close a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) reporting gap and align with recommended best practice by requiring veterinarians who dispense controlled substances directly from their office or clinic to report these dispenses to the PDMP.

Health-General Article §21-2A-02 defines the mission of the PDMP as assisting prescribers, pharmacists, and public health professionals in the identification and prevention of prescription drug abuse and unlawful prescription drug diversion. PDMP carries out this mission by monitoring the prescribing and dispensing of all Schedule II-V controlled dangerous substances (CDS). The PDMP serves as a tool for clinical care coordination to reduce drug-related overdoses amidst the opioid epidemic.

The PDMP requires Maryland pharmacies and dispensing practitioners to report data on CDS dispensed to patients. The PDMP partners with the State's Health Information Exchange, Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), to allow access to prescription monitoring data for certain purposes, including facilitating public health surveillance and research.

HB 1227 will close a PDMP reporting gap by requiring veterinarians who dispense CDS from their office or clinic to report these dispenses to the PDMP. This will align veterinarians with every other dispenser of CDS in the state. PDMPs in sixteen other states and the District of Columbia require veterinarians to report controlled dangerous substances dispensing data to the PDMP.

MDH recognizes that this new reporting requirement for veterinarians will add an administrative burden to veterinarians, especially for small practices. MDH is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders to implement this legislation in a manner that will meet both the statutory requirement to monitor CDS dispenses while also minimizing administrative burden. MDH has met with the State Board of Medical Veterinary Examiners and the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association to answer questions about this bill and will continue to work with them moving forward.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,



Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary