

**THE VERMONT PRESCRIBER DATA-SHARING PROGRAM:
FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)**

Q: Why is the consent form included with my 2008 application or renewal form if the law is not being enforced?

A: At this time, the Attorney General has determined to delay enforcement of the law at least until September 1, 2008. Therefore, the Prescriber Data-Sharing Program will begin accepting and registering consent forms as part of the prescriber's initial or renewal applications filed after January 1, 2008 so that the program will be ready for implementation when the law is enforced. You may obtain a copy of the letter explaining the Attorney General's position at:

<http://www.atg.state.vt.us/display.php?smod=151> under the heading "Prescription Drug Data Confidentiality Law."

Q: When the law is enforced, what will change?

A: The new law allows Vermont health care professionals to prevent, with some exceptions, the use of their prescriber identifiable data for the marketing and promotion of prescription drugs.

Q: What is my "prescriber identifiable data" and where does it come from?

A: Prescriber identifiable data refers to information, such as your name, in prescription drug records that identifies you as the prescriber for a particular prescription. A person with access to your prescriber identifiable data would know, for example, that you wrote a prescription for a particular drug and dose on a specified date, although the person would not know the name of the patient.

Q: What will happen if I sign the consent form?

A: Your consent will be registered with the Prescriber Data-Sharing Program. Ultimately, when the Attorney General begins to enforce the law, entities that want to use your prescriber identifiable data for prescription drug marketing and promotion purposes will be able to do so.

Q: What will happen if I don't sign the form?

A: If you don't sign the form, then you will not be registered in the Prescriber Data-Sharing Program and when the law is enforced those entities that want to use your prescriber identifiable data for prescription drug marketing and promotion purposes will not be able to do so.

Q: I want to file a consent form now. Where do I obtain the form?

A: Consent forms are routinely provided new applicants or as part of a renewal application for those health care professionals with prescribing authority. If you wish to file a consent form at any time separate from your application, please contact your licensing board and ask for a form. The consent forms will be available online by January 1, 2008 on the Board of Medical Practice and Office of Professional Regulation websites.

Q: I do not want to consent. How do I register my choice now?

A: The Prescriber Data-Sharing Program will maintain a registry of those prescribers who do consent and there will *not* be a registry of those who do not consent. If you choose not to consent, do not sign the form when you complete your new or renewal application when you return it to your professional licensing board.

Q: Will I have to renew my consent?

A: Yes. Consent forms will be registered for the license or certification period and you will receive another consent form with your next renewal application.

Q: What if I change my mind and want to revoke my consent?

A: After you have submitted a consent form, you may revoke your consent at any time. You may obtain a revocation form from your professional licensing board. The revocation forms will be available online by January 1, 2008 on the Board of Medical Practice and Office of Professional Regulation websites.

Q: Where can I obtain additional information about the law?

A: Further information and updates on the implementation of the Prescriber Data-Sharing Program are available online under the heading "Prescription Drug Data Confidentiality Law" at:

<http://www.atg.state.vt.us/display.php?smod=151>