Vermont Prescription Monitoring System Tips and Enhancements

One June 15th, the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (VPMS) switched platforms. The new site can be found at https://vermont.pmpaware.net. The move to a new platform allows for new enhancements and tools. Below are some of the upcoming changes in tools on the new system, and a couple tips for how to get the most out of your VPMS queries.

Partial Search

To return the most complete results from a VPMS patient query, utilize the "Partial Search." Include the first three letters from the first name, the first three letters from the last name and DOB and click the "Partial spelling" button as indicated below. If multiple results are returned, you can select the ones who match the patient for whom you are querying.

Interstate Data Sharing

Prescriptions that are filled out of state are not loaded into VPMS unless the pharmacy is licensed in Vermont. To provide more complete data about patients who may fill their prescriptions out of state, VPMS users can access an Interstate Data Search when completing a patient query. Currently, VPMS shares data with New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Maine, New Jersey and Rhode Island are all pending and will be added by the end of the year.

To accurately return results, an exact name match must be used. Results will not be returned if the name does not exactly match the record found in the state.

Bulk Patient Upload Search

Providers who regularly search the same group of multiple patients can benefit from using the Bulk Patient Upload. An external document can be created and then uploaded each time a batch request is required, eliminating the need to manually enter single patients each time. A walk-through document of how to use this feature is available through contacting the VPMS Program Manager.

Coming soon…

Clinical Alerts

An alert will be generated on the provider's dashboard and on patient reports to highlight relevant clinical information.

There will three different types of alerts:

1) **<u>High MME</u>**: When a patient's daily active MME surpasses 90 MME
2) **<u>Multiple Providers/Pharmacy Episodes:</u>** When a patient has surpassed a threshold for the number of prescribers and pharmacies accessed within a set period
3) **<u>Overlapping Opioid and Benzodiazepine prescriptions:</u>** When a patient has an overlap of a least a day of active opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions

Prescriber Insight Reports

Prescribers will be able to view and download metrics about their own prescribing behaviors and patients in comparison to other prescribers within their specialty. Additional aggregate information on their patients will be available as well, including data on the duration of opioid treatment, the percentages of prescriptions written by them in MME categories and number of patients with dangerous combination therapies.

For more information about the VPMS or any of these enhancements, please contact hannah.hauser@vermont.gov.