

Dear Doctor:

As you may know, the Governor and the Office of the Attorney General are making a priority of using all the resources at our disposal to fight the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic that our State is currently facing. The prescribing community has an important role in this fight. To this end, the State has been working to ensure that prescribers are regularly using the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (the "NJMPMP"), a powerful prescription database that enables prescribers to review their patients' prescription history before prescribing drugs.

On November 7, 2016, the Division of Consumer Affairs adopted N.J.A.C. 13:45A-35, effectuating rules governing the NJMPMP. Included among these changes is a mandatory requirement, under certain circumstances, that a prescriber conduct a NJMPMP look-up of patient(s) before issuing prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances. Furthermore, prescribers are now authorized to delegate their access to the NJMPMP to certain other health care professionals. For more information about the mandatory look-up requirements and certain exemptions, please visit: www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/pmp

On February 15, 2017, P.L. 2017, c. 28, was signed into law, imposing certain restrictions on how opioids and other Schedule II controlled dangerous substances may be prescribed. The law makes it unlawful for a prescriber to issue an initial prescription for acute pain for more than a 5-day supply. In addition, the dosage authorized by initial prescriptions for acute pain is to be limited to the lowest effective dose of an immediate-release opioid drug. Also, if you continue to prescribe a Schedule II controlled substance to a patient for chronic pain, you must access the patients PMP records on a quarterly basis. To better understand how to comply with this limitation and other rule changes, please visit: www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/prescribing-for-pain

In order to comply with the new mandatory patient look-up requirements and 5-day opioid prescription limit for acute pain, you must immediately register for access to the newly upgraded NJMPMP platform at <https://newjersey.pmpaware.net/login>, if you have not already done so.

As part of your CDS renewal application, you will **need to certify that you are registered, or will be registered by no later than February 28, 2018**, for access to the NJMPMP platform to comply with the new NJMPMP and prescribing laws.

If you are unable to certify to being registered with the NJMPMP, a hold will be placed on your CDS registration. Please continue with your online renewal and you will receive a follow-up letter with additional instructions on compliance with the NJMPMP registration requirements, allowing you to complete your renewal.