

# Veterinary Prescription Monitoring Program (VetPMP): Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a list of frequently asked questions that you may find helpful.

Q. Who must register on the VetPMP website?

A. All Veterinarians and Certified Veterinary Technicians should register with the VetPMP.

Q. Is there a penalty for failure to comply?

A. No, this is a voluntary program designed for Veterinarians to allow us to self-monitor controlled drug prescriptions for our patients. Opioid addiction is a well-recognized concern in the US and Veterinarians need to feel compelled to seek an accurate system for responsible opioid usage for our patients.

Q. Is there any way for a large provider (i.e. hospital) to register in "a batch way" their employees? They are encouraging compliance and want to make sure they are registered.

A. Each Veterinarian and Technician has to select a unique user name and password and therefore needs register themselves on the website.

Q. Will there be any way for hospitals to get a list of those registered, so they can check on the backend to see who is not registered?

A. If a hospital can provide a list of users, we can verify those registered.

Q. If an inpatient is being ordered a new Controlled Substance for in hospital use, does the prescriber (or their designees) have to look at the VetPMP first, before prescribing and dispensing?

A. The VetPMP database is designed for dispense prescriptions and written prescriptions and not in-clinic use.

Q. How are patient's identified? What if they have more than one name?

A. All patients are identified based on microchip number. More than one name can be listed on the name line.

Q. Is entry into the VetPMP necessary for written prescriptions (i.e. can owners who do not want their pet microchipped get a written prescription)?

A. All controlled drug prescriptions need to be entered into the VetPMP regardless if they are a written prescription or a dispensed prescription. Thus the pet will need a microchip.

Q. What if the pet has more than one microchip?

A. Up to 3 microchips can be entered for a single pet. Please enter all microchip numbers for a pet.

Q. Is there an exemption for short-term prescriptions to be entered into the VetPMP database?

A. The only exemptions for entering data into the VetPMP is for controlled drugs with a duration of 5 days or less.

Q. If the patient is receiving one dose of a pre-op Controlled Substance during an outpatient surgery, is accessing the VetPMP and documentation required?

A. The VetPMP database is designed for dispense prescriptions and written prescriptions and not in-clinic use.

Q. How can the VetPMP information help me in my daily practice of medicine?

A. The VetPMP database is most useful for detecting and preventing "doctor-shopping." Once registered, you can log on and view controlled substance prescriptions for a patient. If you see a pattern of excessive use of controlled substances, you can use more caution in prescribing or dispensing to the patient. This system will only be successful if Veterinarians insist that patients be microchipped and the prescriptions be entered.

No microchip = No opioids/controlled drugs

Q. What prescription information is contained in the VetPMP?

A. The VetPMP contains all Schedule 2,3,4 and 5 controlled drug prescriptions by Minnesota Veterinarians.

Q. How often is the VetPMP database updated?

A. At least every VetPMP is updated hourly.

Q. Does the client need to know about the VetPMP?

A. All clients need to sign the VetPMP release form. The form lets the client know what information we are holding and why. These release forms need to be kept with the patient's medical record.

Q. If a pet is already in the VetPMP can I assume that the VetPMP release form is signed.

A. It is recommended that each clinic have the client sign a VetPMP release form. We do not share the release forms between clinics to help protect data privacy. Therefore, each clinic will need to have a VetPMP on file.

Q. Does the VetPMP release form need to be signed annually?

A. No, the form is good for the life time of the pet or under the client requests no future information be placed into the VetPMP in writing. At that point the patient would no longer be able to obtain controlled drugs.

Q. How quickly do I need to enter prescribed or dispensed controlled drug information into the VetPMP?

A. A prescriptions and dispensed controlled drugs should be entered into the VetPMP within 24 hours of the client obtaining the prescription.

Q. Why can't I find scripts that I know have been written and or filled?

A. There could be several reasons for this.

1. The prescription was not properly reported or saved. If you think that is the situation, please let us know so we can contact the particular veterinary.
2. The VetPMP has not updated, please check back in an hour.

Q. Why do I do see scripts in the VetPMP attributed to me that I did not write/prescribe and what can I do about it?

A. The dispensing veterinarians may have erroneously entered into their computer system your license number as the prescribing veterinarian. Regardless, please e-mail the VetPMP with the details of the discrepancy so we can determine the circumstances of the situation. We will keep you informed about what we find.

Q. Who can access the data contained in the VetPMP.

A. Veterinarians licensed in the state of Minnesota and Veterinary Technicians certified in Minnesota. Law enforcement officers are allowed indirect access to prescription data during an active investigation.