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Prescription Monitoring Program

The Illinois Department of Human Services is proposing amendments to the state's Prescription Monitoring Program ("PMP"). Currently, the PMP monitors the dispensing of drugs classified by the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") as Schedule II drugs. The amendments would expand the current list of drugs monitored by the PMP to include drugs classified by the DEA as Schedule, III, IV and V drugs.

The proposed amendment also defines such terms as "Patient ID", "Prescription Information Library", "Quantities of a Controlled Substance Dispensed", "Recipient's Name" and "Schedule III, IV, or V Drug."

In addition, the amendment proposes to include optometrists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants as authorized prescribers to issue a prescription for Schedule II, III, IV, or V drugs.

Furthermore, this proposed amendment sets forth the following additional prescription requirements:

- a Schedule II prescription is not allowed to be filled more than seven days after the date of issue
- limits the maximum time allowed for a Schedule III, IV or V drug prescription to be filled at six months with a maximum of five refills
- more than one Schedule III, IV or V drug prescription may be prescribed on the prescription form
- patient ID for proper filling of prescription
- verification of person accepting the prescription if not intended user

The dispenser of the prescription must transmit certain prescription information, including patient identification, patient sex and patient birthday, not more than 7 days (current law states 15 days) after the dispensing of a Schedule II, III, IV or V drug.

This proposed amendment also requires the Department's Bureau of Pharmacy and Clinical Support Systems to establish and maintain the Illinois Prescription Information Library (the "PIL"). The PIL is a database containing prescription information only accessible by prescribers and dispensers for tracking patient treatment usage.

Finally, other states may request access to the PMP. These states will need to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department.

For more information please contact Popovits & Robinson at 708/479-3230.

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