

Types of prescription fraud

Prescription fraud can take many forms. The most common tactics are:

- **Forging prescriptions.** Forging prescription slips has become easier as the cost of high-quality copying equipment has dropped.
- **Altering prescriptions.** The first step of many users of legally prescribed drugs who become addicted is to alter a legitimate prescription to change the type of drug, increase the number of refills, increase the quantity, or add drugs.
- **Doctor shopping.** Those who doctor shop often go to multiple doctors, emergency rooms, and pharmacies and pretend to have certain symptoms or gain sympathy to obtain prescriptions.
- **Calling in prescriptions.** Typically, offenders call in a prescription when the doctor's office is closed, in case the pharmacist calls the office to confirm that the prescription is legitimate; some offenders leave their own phone numbers for verification.
- **Stealing blank prescription forms.** Some offenders steal prescription pads from doctor's offices and write prescriptions for either themselves or fictitious patients. They may change the phone number so that they or an accomplice can answer verification calls.

Law enforcement accessibility to CPMRS data

Authorized law enforcement agencies and/or personnel may request/obtain data from the CPMRS only when acting in accordance with official duties in conducting a bona fide investigation.

The data contained in the CPMRS may not be completely accurate. Therefore, any information obtained from the CPMRS MUST BE VERIFIED with the pharmacy that dispensed the medication and the prescriber who wrote for it.

HIPAA applicability

HIPAA allows covered entities such as a prescriber or pharmacy to disclose protected health information for a law enforcement purpose, to a law enforcement official, under certain circumstances:

- To investigate or conduct an official inquiry into a potential violation of law; or
- To prosecute or otherwise conduct a criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding arising from an alleged violation of law.

Log on. Save time. Close cases.

An Effective Law Enforcement
Tool for Conducting Prescription
Fraud Investigations



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Prescription Fraud: A nationwide problem.

Prescription fraud is a significant and growing problem. While common throughout the country, its intensity varies from place to place. This is often due to the popularity of specific types of drugs in different regions.

People commit prescription fraud in numerous ways, including forging prescriptions, going to several doctors to get multiple prescriptions (termed “doctor shopping”), and altering prescriptions to increase the quantity.

The biggest factor driving prescription fraud is the increase in abuse of prescription drugs. Abuse of prescription drugs to get high has become increasingly common, especially among teens and young adults. Prescription pain killers are now ranked second—only behind marijuana—as the nation’s most prevalent illegal drug problem.

To help law enforcement agencies conduct prescription fraud investigations in less time using fewer resources, the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) has developed the **Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS)**.

CPMRS: What is it?

The CPMRS is a web-based application that allows authorized law enforcement personnel to access a patient’s controlled-substance (Schedule II – V) prescription history, and/or a prescriber’s controlled-substance prescribing history online 24/7. This **secure online system** can be accessed by any computer with an internet connection. No special software or hardware is needed.

CPMRS increases investigation efficiency

For prescription fraud investigations, CPMRS:

- Reduces some of the physical legwork involved in an investigation.
- Exposes potential doctor/pharmacy shopping and other fraudulent behaviors.
- Provides automated patient controlled-substance history reports online 24/7.
- Offers ability to request a prescriber’s controlled-substance prescribing history report online 24/7.
- Enables law enforcement to detect suspicious activity quicker.
- Saves investigative hours, transportation and other departmental resource costs.
- Allows law enforcement to post alerts on possible suspects.

CPMRS: How does it work?

Connecticut-licensed pharmacies, both in-state and out-of-state, are required to submit their controlled-substance prescription data into the CPMRS at least twice monthly.

Pharmacies are encouraged to report more frequently, but are not required. Therefore, the data may be, at most, two weeks behind at any given moment.

CPMRS: Law enforcement training

Law enforcement agencies and/or personnel interested in gaining access to the CPMRS must contact the CPMRS administrator at **860.713.6073** to receive a 30-minute training on the following:

- Policies and procedure for accessing the CPMRS.
- How to register and use the CPMRS for investigational purposes.

At this time, only detectives and police officers involved in narcotics investigations can register for a CPMRS account.

Register for a free CPMRS account:

To register for a free CPMRS account, visit the CPMRS website at www.ctpmp.com and click on “Not a User? Register to become a User.”

- Provide your basic contact information and indicate your status as “Law Enforcement.”
- Once the registration application is submitted online, you will receive a confirmation page.
- Print the confirmation page and have the form notarized by a licensed notary.
- Fax the notarized confirmation page along with a copy of your driver’s license, passport, or government issued photo identification card to **860.622.2608**.
- Once your registration has been processed, your username and password will be e-mailed to the address provided on the form.

For questions regarding registration, please contact the CPMRS administrator at **860.713.6073**.