Evaluation of Prescription Monitoring Program
Washington, 2011–2012

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EIS Field Assignments Branch

The graph illustrates the comparison between drug poisoning and motor-vehicle traffic death rates per 100,000 population in the U.S. from 1999 to 2009. The data shows a decreasing trend in motor-vehicle traffic death rates and an increasing trend in drug poisoning death rates over the period.
Drug Poisoning Deaths by Major Drug Type, U.S., 1999–2009

Number of deaths

Year

Opioid analgesic
Cocaine
Heroin

Number of deaths
Prescription Drug Poisonings

- **Causes**
  - Focus on pain management
  - Increase in number of prescriptions

- **Results**
  - Increase in abuse
    - Deaths
    - Emergency department visits
    - Youth access
  - Economic costs > $50 billion annually
Prescription Drug Poisonings
Washington State

- Opioid death rate Washington = 2 x national rate
- 4th highest rate of nonmedical use of prescription pain relievers
- Highest percentage of methadone prescribed for pain
Prescription Monitoring Program
Washington State

- Passed legislation in 2007
- Launched in October 2011
- Administered by Department of Health

Goals
1) To provide for better patient care and safety
2) To assist public insurers in preventing fraud
Resources

- **Start up grant funding – Dept of Justice & HHS**
  - Through June 30, 2013
- **Department of Health staff**
  - 1 staff member, 60% time
- **Contracted vendor**
  - Data collection and maintenance
Case Definition

- **What**: Schedule II-V controlled substances
  - Opioids, stimulants, depressants, tranquilizers
  - Dispensed for more than 1 day use

- **Where**: Dispensed by a pharmacy
  - Located in Washington state
  - Shipped to an address in Washington state

- **When**: Ongoing (mandatory since Oct 2011)
Stakeholders

- Department of Health
- Pharmacies
- Providers
- Health Care Agencies
- Law Enforcement
- Academia
- Individual patients
Data Flow

Dispense prescription
Pharmacies or dispensing physician
Data Flow

Dispense prescription
Pharmacies or dispensing physician

≤ 7 days

Upload prescription record into PMP
Pharmacy record system or direct upload
Data Flow

Dispense prescription
Pharmacies or dispensing physician

Upload prescription record into PMP
Pharmacy automated system or direct upload

2-3 days

Clean and process records
Contracted vendor
Data Flow

Dispense prescription
Pharmacies or dispensing physician

Upload prescription record into PMP
Pharmacy automated system or direct upload

Clean and process records
Contracted vendor

7-10 days

Access to data
Stakeholders
Access to Data

- Direct access
  - Pharmacies
  - Providers
  - Department of Health
  - Law enforcement

- Bulk reports
  - Medicaid
  - Labor and Industries

- Individual reports
  - Patients

- De-identified data
  - Academia
Sample Patient Record

Patient Rx History Report

Date: 12/20/11  
Page#: 1

Health Information Designs Inc.  
Washington Query Report

SKYWALKER LUKE

Search Criteria: Last Name 'skywalker' and First Name 'Luke' and D.O.B. = '12/01/77' and Address = '' and Request Period = '06/01/11' to '12/20/11' - 3 out of 3 Recipients Selected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fill Date</th>
<th>Product, Str, Form</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Pt ID</th>
<th>Prescriber</th>
<th>Written</th>
<th>RX#</th>
<th>N/R*</th>
<th>Pharm</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/02/2011</td>
<td>ADDERALL XR 25 MG CAPSULE</td>
<td>30.000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>00818248</td>
<td>AR7654321</td>
<td>10/02/2011</td>
<td>1234567 N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>BE2481639</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/02/2011</td>
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<td>90.000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>00818248</td>
<td>AR7654321</td>
<td>10/02/2011</td>
<td>1234566 N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>BE2481639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/09/2011</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>00818249</td>
<td>BV00000000</td>
<td>10/09/2011</td>
<td>9876543 N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>BG1010101</td>
</tr>
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<td>10/09/2011</td>
<td>LORAZEPAM 0.5 MG TABLET</td>
<td>60.000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>00818249</td>
<td>BV00000000</td>
<td>10/09/2011</td>
<td>9876544 N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>BG1010101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/09/2011</td>
<td>CARISOPRODOL 350 MG TABLET</td>
<td>60.000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>00818249</td>
<td>BV00000000</td>
<td>10/09/2011</td>
<td>9876545 N</td>
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<td>00818250</td>
<td>MF7342561</td>
<td>10/21/2011</td>
<td>258741 N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>AC0987654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/21/2011</td>
<td>ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE 10 MG TABLET</td>
<td>30.000</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>00818250</td>
<td>MF7342561</td>
<td>10/21/2011</td>
<td>258742 N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>AC0987654</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*N/R N=New R=Refill

Prescribers for prescriptions listed

- AR7654321 RAINER, 9245 RAINER AVE SOUTH, SEATTLE WA 98108
- BV00000000 VADER, 400 S 41RD ST, RENTON WA 98055
- MF7342561 FUGET, 1140 BROADWAY ST, EVERETT WA 98201

Pharmacies that dispensed prescriptions listed

- BE2481639 EZ DISCOUNT DRUGS, 9000 RAINER AVE SOUTH, SEATTLE WA 98118
- BG1010101 GALAXY DRUGS, TALBOT RD, RENTON WA 98055
- AC0987654 CHANK APOTHECARY, 21701 76TH AVE W, EDMOND WA 98026

Patients that match search criteria

- 00818248 SKYWALKER LUKE, DOB 12/01/77; 77 S WASHINGTON ST, SEATTLE WA 98107
- 00818249 SKYWALKER LUKE, DOB 12/01/77; 77 S WASHINGTON ST APT 6, SEATTLE WA 98104
- 00818250 SKYWALKER LUKE, DOB 12/01/77; 77 S WASHINGTON ST, SEATTLE WA 98104
Pharmacists and Providers
Uses of PMP Data

- **Pharmacists**
  - Check prescription history of patient BEFORE dispensing
  - 40,000 patient history requests (Aug 2012)

- **Providers**
  - Confirm patients NOT misusing prescriptions
  - Refer for pain management or treatment
  - 402,000 patient history requests (Dec 2012)

- “Doctor shoppers” – filled prescriptions from ≥5 prescribers at ≥5 pharmacies within 3 months
  - 700 individuals per quarter
Law Enforcement Uses of PMP Data

- Investigate possible fraud or abuse
  - Stolen DEA number
  - Prescriber abuse
  - Diversion

- Law enforcement requests to date
  - Over 1600 patient history reports
  - Over 200 prescriber history reports
  - 19 dispenser history reports
Medicaid
Uses of PMP Data

- **Individuals**
  - Comparison with claims data
  - Identical prescription by different prescriber filled < 10 days apart
  - Paid with cash and filed Medicaid claim
  - > 400 flagged in 2012

- **Pharmacists**
  - Filled prescriptions for flagged individuals
  - 435 under investigation by Medicaid Fraud Unit
Labor and Industry
Uses of PMP Data

- Worker’s compensation claims
- Prescription for opioids ≤ 60 days before injury
- Between 300-400 new claims per month
- Coordination of care and management of claims
- Better monitor clients who use suboxone
Department of Health
Uses of PMP Data

- Department of Health
  - Geographic variations in prescriptions
  - Population rates
  - Source of prescriptions
Nonliquid Doses per Person by County
(10/2011-9/2012)
### Most Commonly Dispensed Controlled Substances*

<table>
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<th>Generic name</th>
<th>Brand name</th>
<th># of Rx</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hydrocodone + Acetaminophen</td>
<td>Vicodin</td>
<td>1,669,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oxycodone + Acetaminophen</td>
<td>Percocet</td>
<td>514,000</td>
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<td>Zolpidem Tartrate</td>
<td>Ambien</td>
<td>507,000</td>
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<td>Oxycodone</td>
<td>Oxycontin</td>
<td>503,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Alprazolam</td>
<td>Zanax</td>
<td>363,000</td>
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*Dispensed Jan - Aug 2012
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Evaluation of Attributes

- Interviews with
  - Department of Health staff
  - CDC subject matter expert
  - Medicaid
  - Labor and Industry
Simplicity

- Records originate from pharmacies
- Data fields are limited
- Definition of controlled substance is standardized
Flexibility

- Data fields are set
- Definition of flags for abuse is adaptive
Acceptability

- Very useful
- Lack of integration with medical records
- 2-factor authentication system
- Hospital firewalls
- 23% of providers with a DEA license registered
  - Target for ER providers
Timeliness

- Prescriptions required to be entered within 7 days of dispensing
- Data fields cleaned by vendor
- Lag time 7 to 10 days
  - Drug seeking
  - Emergency Room data
Data Quality

- 3% of records
  - Missing data
  - Incorrect data

- 0.2% of records
  - Fatal error – record will not load
Sensitivity
(Prescription for Controlled Substances)

- **Required by law**
  - Pharmacy license can be revoked
  - 98% compliance rate (Dec2012)
- **Number of prescriptions**
  - 950,000 or more per month
  - Similar to expected estimates
Predictive Value Positive
(Prescription for Controlled Substances)

- Automatically uploaded
- Set codes for controlled substances
- Records created after dispensing
Representativeness
(Prescription for Controlled Substances)

All dispensed controlled substances captured except
- Border states
- Canada
- Federal pharmacies
Sensitivity
(Extraction Drug Abuse)

- Flagged records
  - Doctor shopping
  - Duplicate prescriptions
- Diversion
Predictive Value Positive (Prescription Drug Abuse)

- Flagged individuals
- No listing of indication
- Patients with chronic cancer pain
Representativeness
(Prescription Drug Abuse)

- Underrepresenting diversion cases
- Overrepresenting legitimate use
Stability

- Current funding start up grant
- Funding ends June 30, 2013
Conclusions

- Provides valuable information
- Covers substantial proportion of pharmacies and dispensed prescriptions
- Problems with detecting abuse
- Concerns about future of system
Recommendations

- Secure permanent funding
  - Money was included in past governor’s proposed budget
- Shorten reporting window
- Link to border state records
- Link to medical records
  - Department of Health has submitted to Health Information Exchange
Lessons Learned

- Legislation requirements
- Limited staffing
  - Recruiting more providers
  - Creating flags for providers
Acknowledgments

DOH:
Chris Baumgartner
Jennifer Sabel
Juliet VanEenwyk

CDC:
Sheryl Lyss
Len Paulozzi