

Summit Diagnostics, LLC **800-377-6481**

The Summit Star

News to help physicians limit liability and reduce patient drug diversion



20 Trafalgar Sq. Suite 448
Nashua, NH 03063

Editorial

George Powell, Managing Partner of Summit Diagnostics, offers his thoughts about changes in world of the Drug Testing

After almost 20 years in the drug testing business, you might think that I have seen it all. The truth is that the world of drug testing and drug safety is changing so quickly now that what passed for 'state of the art' technology just a year or two ago, is no long past its prime.



The really good Drug Safety companies are getting smarter, offering a wider range of services, and are listening to what their physician clients want.

For Summit, watch in the coming months for DNA testing that compliments drug testing to identify Adverse

Drug Reactions. You'll also see that our programs are more individualized to the physician specialty. We're also working hard to ensure seamless integration of our lab reporting into your electronic medical records.

What continues to set us apart at Summit is that we offer Drug Safety Programs, not drug testing programs. Our #1 priority is to offer you the best drug safety ideas, programs, protocols, and concepts, all in the name of helping to keep you, your staff, and your patients Drug Safe.

George

New Study Proves 4 Point Method Reduces Diversion

Now, a new study from the University of Michigan and the Ohio State University shows how doctors and their office staff are able to balance the need to write prescriptions for pain medications with the need to limit their liability for patient drug diversion.



In this study, with the results released just last month, a busy multi-physician clinic was able to dramatically improve its ability to identify patients who were misusing opioid medications. The clinic set about 4 new policies which included:

1. They created a registry of all patients receiving opioid prescriptions.
2. They began using the state of Ohio's online prescription database.
3. They developed and implemented a patient/physician agreement that

lists the monitoring steps and also the consequences if abnormal results are found. Both physician and patient sign the agreement which is mandatory.

4. They implemented a system where all opioid prescriptive patients are screened annually. Between annual screenings, random screenings were conducted.

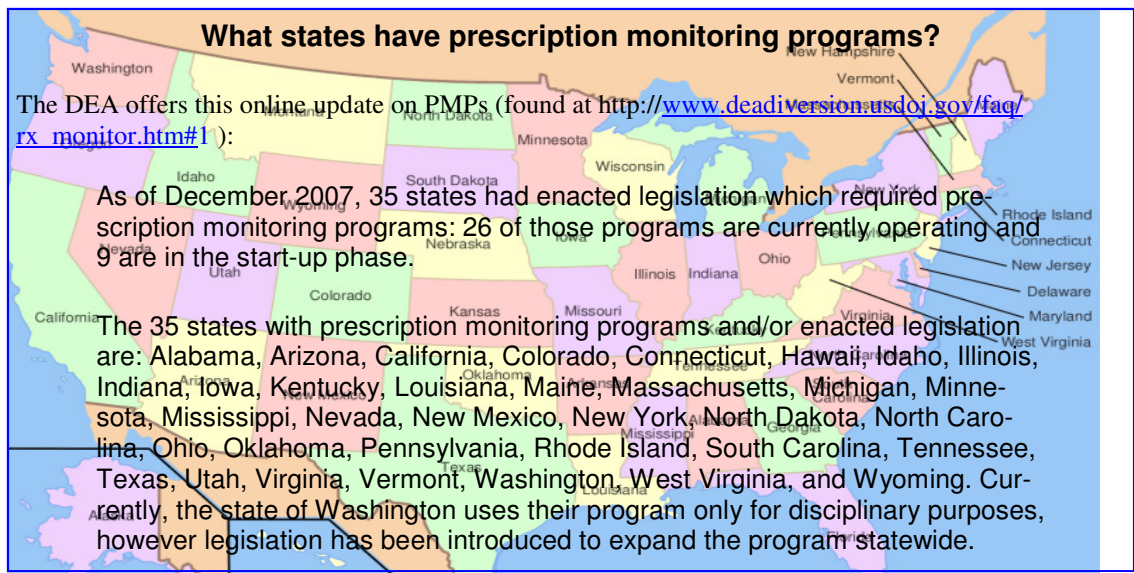
With this new policy in place, "the study revealed that 35% of the 167 patients in the clinic's opioid registry in some way violated the new policy in some way ..." reported the University of Michigan in their April 10, 2008 press release.

What states have prescription monitoring programs?

The DEA offers this online update on PMPs (found at http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/faq/rx_monitor.htm#1):

As of December 2007, 35 states had enacted legislation which required prescription monitoring programs: 26 of those programs are currently operating and 9 are in the start-up phase.

The 35 states with prescription monitoring programs and/or enacted legislation are: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Currently, the state of Washington uses their program only for disciplinary purposes, however legislation has been introduced to expand the program statewide.





Did you know that Summit reps:

- Live in the communities that they service. There's always someone local.
- Have a variety of cross reference tools to help you decipher test results.
- Have passed HIPAA training requirements.
- Can help you design a testing program that meets your needs.



Summit Diagnostics, LLC provides drug safety programs for physicians that prescribe controlled substances. We help the physician to limit liability and decrease Rx diversion by their patients .

We provide tools to help physicians to uncover diversion among their patients. We offer: rapid drug testing for illicit as well as common prescription drugs, analysis and GC/LC MS testing validation through some of the best laboratories in the US, random test cards, patient and staff educational information, and hands-on support from local representatives.

If Illicit Drug Use is identified, what are the physician's rights and responsibilities?

It's a point of clarification frequently for our physician clients: if in the course of drug testing, illicit drug use is identified, what must the physician do to be legally compliant?



While state laws do vary, in general, most states uphold the doctor patient confidentiality, unless public safety

is at risk (Example: the patient is a commercial airline pilot.) Other than matters of public safety, the doctor patient relationship dictates that patient confidentiality be upheld, even if abuse or addiction is suspected or found. Physicians are generally protected by state licensing laws from violating patient confidentiality, even if abuse or addiction is suspected or found.

What can you do if the patient has an illicit drug problem and/or an addiction?

- Many doctors have a patient contract – which both the physician and the patient sign. The contract generally calls for termination of the care of the patient by the physician if abuse or illicit drug use or addiction is discovered.
- Often physicians offer counseling – either onsite at the clinic

or through partner organizations – to help the patient overcome the abuse and/or addiction.

- Some physicians offer time-periods of warning before terminating patient care. Usually the physician in this case will offer something like '30 days or 60 days to eliminate the abuse or addiction'. Then the patient is retested. If the problem has resolved, care continues. If the abuse or addiction continues, often the care is then terminated.

The professional duty of confidentiality covers not only what patients may reveal to doctors, but also what doctors may independently conclude or form an opinion about, based on their [EXAMINATION](#) or [ASSESSMENT](#) of patients. Confidentiality covers all medical records (including x-rays, lab-reports, etc.) as well as communications between patient and doctor, and it generally includes communications between the patient and other professional staff working with the doctor.

"Doctor-Patient Confidentiality." *Encyclopedia of Everyday Law*. Ed. Shirelle Phelps. Gale Group, Inc., 2003. eNotes.com, 2006. 2 May, 2008