

65-1685. Same; database information privileged and confidential; persons authorized to receive data; advisory committee review of information. (a) The prescription monitoring program database, all information contained therein and any records maintained by the board, or by any entity contracting with the board, submitted to, maintained or stored as a part of the database, shall be privileged and confidential, shall not be subject to subpoena or discovery in civil proceedings and may only be used for investigatory or evidentiary purposes related to violations of state or federal law and regulatory activities of entities charged with administrative oversight of those persons engaged in the prescribing or dispensing of scheduled substances and drugs of concern, shall not be a public record and shall not be subject to the Kansas open records act, K.S.A. 45-215 et seq., and amendments thereto, except as provided in subsections (c) and (d).

(b) The board shall maintain procedures to ensure that the privacy and confidentiality of patients and patient information collected, recorded, transmitted and maintained is not disclosed to persons except as provided in subsections (c) and (d).

(c) The board is hereby authorized to provide data in the prescription monitoring program to the following persons:

(1) Persons authorized to prescribe or dispense scheduled substances and drugs of concern, for the purpose of providing medical or pharmaceutical care for their patients;

(2) an individual who requests the individual's own prescription monitoring information in accordance with procedures established by the board;

(3) designated representatives from the professional licensing, certification or regulatory agencies charged with administrative oversight of those persons engaged in the prescribing or dispensing of scheduled substances and drugs of concern;

(4) local, state and federal law enforcement or prosecutorial officials engaged in the administration, investigation or enforcement of the laws governing scheduled substances and drugs of concern subject to the requirements in K.S.A. 22-2502, and amendments thereto;

(5) designated representatives from the department of health and environment regarding authorized medicaid program recipients;

(6) persons authorized by a grand jury subpoena, inquisition subpoena or court order in a criminal action;

(7) personnel of the prescription monitoring program advisory committee for the purpose of operation of the program;

(8) personnel of the board for purposes of administration and enforcement of this act or the uniform controlled substances act, K.S.A. 65-4101 et seq., and amendments thereto;

(9) persons authorized to prescribe or dispense scheduled substances and drugs of concern, when an individual is obtaining prescriptions in a manner that appears to be misuse, abuse or diversion of scheduled substances or drugs of concern; and

(10) medical examiners, coroners or other persons authorized under law to investigate or determine causes of death.

(d) The prescription monitoring program advisory committee established pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1689, and amendments thereto, is authorized to review and analyze the data for purposes of identifying patterns and activity of concern.

(1) If a review of information appears to indicate a person may be obtaining prescriptions in a manner that may represent misuse or abuse of controlled substances and drugs of concern, the advisory committee is authorized to notify the prescribers and dispensers who prescribed or dispensed the prescriptions. If the review identifies patterns or other evidence sufficient to create a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, the advisory committee is authorized to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(2) If a review of information appears to indicate that a violation of state or federal law relating to prescribing controlled substances and drugs of concern may have occurred, or that a prescriber or dispenser has knowingly prescribed, dispensed or obtained controlled substances and drugs of concern in a manner that is inconsistent with recognized standards of care for the profession, the advisory committee shall determine whether a report to the professional licensing, certification or regulatory agencies charged with administrative oversight of those persons engaged in prescribing or dispensing of controlled substances and drugs of concern or to the appropriate law enforcement agency is warranted.

(A) For purposes of such determination the advisory committee may, in consultation with the appropriate regulatory agencies and professional organizations, establish criteria regarding appropriate standards and utilize volunteer peer review committees of professionals with expertise in the particular practice to create such standards and review individual cases.

(B) The peer review committee or committees appointed herein shall have authority to request and receive information in the prescription monitoring program database from the director of the prescription monitoring program.

(C) If the determination is made that a referral to a regulatory or law enforcement agency is not warranted but educational or professional advising might be appropriate, the advisory committee may refer the prescribers or dispensers to other such resources.

(e) The board is hereby authorized to provide data in the prescription monitoring program to public or private entities for statistical, research or educational purposes after removing information that could be used to identify individual practitioners, dispensers, patients or persons who received prescriptions from dispensers.

History: L. 2008, ch. 104, § 5; L. 2012, ch. 107, § 5; May 17.

Section was amended twice in the 2012 session, see also 65-1685a.