Effectively addressing the opioid public health crisis/epidemic requires a multifaceted approach. Current efforts include improving addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services; pain management; use of overdose reversing drugs; research and data. NCPDP’s Standards-based Facilitator Model for PDMP takes a data-driven approach to ensuring access for patients with a valid medical need and enabling proactive intervention to curb misuse and abuse.

### NCPDP Standards-based Facilitator Model for PDMP

**An Interoperable Framework for Patient Safety**

- **NCPDP’s SCRIPT Standard Enables Proactive Intervention at Point of Prescribing**
- **NCPDP’s Telecommunication Standard Enables proactive Intervention at Point of Dispensing**
Understanding the Practical Application
NCPDP Standards-based Facilitator Model for PDMP,
An Interoperable Framework for Patient Safety

NCPDP’s SCRIPT Standard Enables Proactive Intervention at Point of Prescribing
- The Prescriber, through its EMR/EHR system, queries the Private Sector Facilitator’s database of controlled substances before the medication is prescribed at point of care using the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard’s Medication History Request Transaction that’s named in MMA and was piloted in the ONC S&I PDMP Framework.
- The Prescriber’s EMR system receives a Medication History Response Transaction containing the patient’s history of medications and a “Risk Score” in a field that has been added to the transaction, containing a level of risk associated with prescribing the medication.
- After reviewing the patient’s medication history, the prescriber makes the clinical decision whether it’s safe to prescribe the medication for the patient. If the prescriber determines the medication is safe to prescribe, an electronic prescription (which uses the NCPDP SCRIPT Standard) may be submitted to the patient’s pharmacy, or the prescriber may provide the patient with a paper prescription.

NCPDP’s Telecommunication Standard Enables Proactive Intervention at Point of Dispensing
- At the same time the Pharmacy reports the medication intended to be dispensed using the NCPDP Telecommunication Standard, a clinical alert may be received from the Private Sector Facilitator, transmitted via the NCPDP Telecommunication Standard’s DUR response segment if the patient is deemed to be at risk. This method of notification is already in practice today and is proven effective.
- If a DUR Alert is present indicating risk in dispensing the medication, the dispensing process is halted and the Pharmacy queries the Private Sector Facilitator to receive a full medication history on the patient, including attempts to fill, enabling the pharmacist to make a clinical decision whether to dispense the medication.
- If the Pharmacist determines it is appropriate to dispense the medication, a DUR override code is entered into the proper field in the NCPDP Telecommunication Standard, allowing the dispensing process to continue. This override is also captured by the Private Sector Facilitator. The absence of a DUR override would indicate a pharmacist’s decision not to dispense.
- If the Pharmacist doesn’t receive the medication, then the transaction is removed in real-time by the Private Sector Facilitator using the NCPDP Telecommunication Reversal Transaction.
- If details about sold medications are required (e.g., who picked up the medication or what day it was picked up) the pharmacy sends an NCPDP PDMP Reporting Transaction to the Private Sector Facilitator at the end of the business day.

Unlike other models, the NCPDP Standards-Based Facilitator Model for PDMP supports an interoperable framework for Patient Safety by engaging a Private Sector Facilitator that connects both the dispensing pharmacy (via NCPDP’s Telecommunication Standard) and the prescriber (via NCPDP’s SCRIPT Standard) and that:

- Shares complete and accurate real-time information;
- Reduces burdens on providers;
- Enables proactive risk notification; and
- Allows BOTH prescribers and pharmacists to make clinical decisions prior to prescribing/dispensing.

Private Sector Facilitator
- Pharmacies/dispensers report all controlled substances, including Opioids, intended to be sold to patients in real-time to a Private Sector Facilitator using the HIPAA-named NCPDP Telecommunication Standard.
- The Private Sector Facilitator consolidates the controlled substance data from all states into a single database for immediate availability for providers to query against.
- The Private Sector Facilitator uses private industry developed algorithms to develop “risk scores” to assist providers in making clinical decisions whether to prescribe or dispense medications.
- The Private Sector Facilitator will provide clinical alerts if the patient is deemed to be at risk.
- The Private Sector Facilitator can report consolidated dispensed medications to State PDMPs, providing more timely, actionable information to states.