

Physicians Now Have Access To Controlled Substance Prescription Information



The New York State Department of Health Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement has automated its *Practitioner Notification Program* to allow practitioners to have secure online access to their patients' recent controlled substance prescription histories. Prescribers of controlled substances are strongly encouraged to use this tool to be informed when prescribing controlled substances to your patients. Access is available through the Health Commerce System.

Here's how you can establish a Health Commerce System (HCS - formerly HPN) account...

- 1) Go to the website listed below and follow the instructions <https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub/top.html>
- 2) New accounts are usually established within two weeks.
Your application must be notarized and received by the Department of Health for the process to begin.
- 3) A list of frequently asked questions about the program is available on the above website.

Questions??

New York State Department of Health Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement 866-811-7957
www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic

Current account holders can access this system through the HCS portal

Can't remember the password for your account? Call Commerce Accounts Management Unit (CAMU) at 1-866-529-1890 for assistance.

Once logged on to the portal, go to HCS applications, scroll to "Controlled Substance – Online Practitioner Notification Program"

Some Online Practitioner Notification Program Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **What is the purpose of this program?** **Answer:** To provide each New York State prescriber of controlled substances secure on-line access to his or her patients' recent controlled substance prescription history in an effort to provide optimal treatment to their patients.
2. **Who can access the program?** **Answer:** Any New York State licensed prescriber who holds a valid DEA registration may access the program to determine if a patient under his or her treatment with a controlled substance *may be* under treatment with a controlled substance by another prescriber.
3. **How can I access the *Online Practitioner Notification Program*?** **Answer:** You need to have a current HCS account. Instructions on how to establish an account are available on the following website: <https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub/top.html>
4. **Which DEA number should I use if I hold multiple registration numbers?** **Answer:** The DEA number associated with your prescriptions is the number that the dispenser submitted to the Department. You may need to check each DEA number separately. If you are searching for a new patient, you may enter any valid DEA number issued to you including an 'X' DEA number.
5. **I entered my patient's name and birth date into the application and the message "*The patient information you requested does not appear in our records*" was displayed. I've written controlled substance prescriptions for this patient, how can this be true?** **Answer:** Dispensers of controlled substances must report monthly to the Department of Health Information will only be provided if it has been reported that your patient has received controlled substance prescriptions from 2 or more prescribers and filled them at 2 or more pharmacies/dispensers during the previous calendar month. At the time you conducted the search, the Department of Health may not have received dispensing information for your patient.
6. **Can I share my patient's report with him or her?** **Answer:** Yes. Release of the information contained in the Drug Utilization Report is based upon the professional medical judgment of the prescriber.
7. **Who do I contact if I didn't write the prescription shown under "Prescriptions Written by Me"?** **Answer:** Use the link on the online Confidential Drug Utilization Report page to report a prescription error. The link is located below your patient's prescription information.
8. **Who do I contact if I suspect drug diversion?** **Answer:** You should contact the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement at the Metropolitan Area Regional Office (212) 417-4103
9. **My patient is claiming identity theft. How should I direct him or her?** **Answer:** Identity theft should be reported to the local police department.