



MEDFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY NO. 2.15

PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION
STANDARDS
REFERENCED: NONE

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11/07/2025

ISSUING AUTHORITY:

Michelle Guerette
Chief of Police

BACKGROUND:

Chapter 283 of the Acts of 2010 created a new section 24A of Chapter 94C of the Massachusetts General Laws, establishing a Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) in the Department of Public Health (DPH) effective January 1, 2011. The Act requires the Department to promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of sec. 24A no later than October 1, 2012.

The purpose of the PMP is to assist health care providers and investigative agencies in addressing drug diversion and the misuse and abuse of pharmaceutical controlled substances. The PMP is a computer-based system that collects prescription data submitted by pharmacies on all prescriptions for controlled substances in Schedules II through V.

The new section 24A provides that access to the PMP shall be available to, "local, state and federal law enforcement or prosecutorial officials working with the executive office of public safety engaged in the administration, investigation or enforcement of the laws governing prescription drugs; provided, however, that the data request is in connection with a bona fide specific controlled substance or additional drug-related investigation."

POLICY:

When implemented, It shall be the policy of the Medfield Police Department that only personnel authorized by the Chief of Police may access or use information contained in the Commonwealth's

Prescription Monitoring Program, and that personnel who utilize the program and its information may do so only pursuant to a departmental investigation.

PROCEDURES:

Access to the Prescription Monitoring Program

1. The Chief of Police may authorize sworn members of the Department to access and utilize information within the PMP as permitted by state regulation.
2. Only detectives within the Investigative Unit and the Deputy Chief may be authorized to use the PMP.
3. Pursuant to state regulation, any officer granted access to the PMP shall successfully complete any and all required training.
4. Personnel with access to the PMP may not share their passwords or access codes with any other person.

Use of Data from the Prescription Monitoring Program

1. Department personnel may access the PMP or use its data only in furtherance of an official departmental investigation.
2. Prior to accessing the PMP, an officer must open an investigation and write a narrative which includes the nature of the information leading the officer to believe that prescription drugs are being abused or diverted.
3. If an officer who has been granted access to the PMP is asked by another officer to query the program for information, he shall first ensure that an investigation has been opened.
4. PMP data may only be used in furtherance of a departmental investigation and shall not be disseminated to others except as the investigation requires. PMP data may be shared with authorized personnel from other law enforcement agencies or with state and federal prosecutors.
5. In most cases, officers obtaining information via the PMP will need to obtain documentary evidence, such actual prescriptions, or other evidence to present in court.
6. Any employee, who violates this policy or state regulations related to the PMP, may face disciplinary action as well as will loss of access to the PMP.