

Connecticut Prescription Monitoring Program and Animal Patients

By: Julia Singer Bansal, Senior Legislative Attorney
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Issue

You asked several questions about the [Connecticut Prescription Monitoring Program](#), as it applies to animal patients. We answer each question below.

The Prescription Monitoring Program collects prescription data on legally prescribed controlled substances (i.e., Schedule II-V) into a centralized online database, the Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS) ([CGS § 21a-254\(j\)](#)), as amended by [PA 19-191](#), § 3, & [Conn. Agencies Regs. § 21a-254-2 et seq.](#)).

As prescribing practitioners, veterinarians who prescribe controlled substances must look animal patients up in the CPMRS under the same conditions that other patient histories must be reviewed. Veterinarians who dispense controlled substance prescriptions must submit information on the dispensed substance to the CPMRS.

How long do veterinarians have to report dispensed controlled substances to the CPMRS?

One week. Although pharmacies and dispensing practitioners must generally submit to the CPMRS information on dispensed controlled substances on a daily basis, the law only requires veterinarians submit data once per week.

Must a veterinarian submit information to the CPMRS if they only administer the controlled substance at the office?

No. Among other exceptions, a drug administered directly to a patient (human or animal) by a prescriber need not be reported to the CPMRS, [according to](#) the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP).

How are animal patients tracked in the CPMRS?

Animal and patient records are stored in the same database, allowing doctors, veterinarians, and dispensers to view information about entire households. Records can be sorted to exclude either category (i.e., human or animal).

DCP, which oversees the CPMRS, suggests practitioners search for and report information about animal patients using the animal's first name and the owner's last name. According to DCP, in practice, some practitioners also use the animal's species as their last name (e.g., first name "Spot," last name "Dog"). In addition to the animal's name, as is the case for humans, other information about animal patients (e.g., birthdate, address) and their prescriptions (e.g., fill date and quantity) must also be reported to the CPMRS when a controlled substance is dispensed.

How is the CPMRS used to review information about a household with an animal?

The CPMRS matches various data points to give doctors, veterinarians, and dispensers information about prescriptions for people with the same last name or address, for example. (DCP notes that CPMRS data is subject to input errors and inconsistencies, thus information about animals in a household may not always be linked to other household members.)

For example, if Jane Doe's primary care physician is considering giving her a prescription for a week's supply of a controlled substance, the physician would look Jane up in the CPMRS and may see that last month a veterinarian dispensed a controlled substance for her dog, "Spot Doe." Similarly, if a physician were looking up Jane's partner, John Smith, the physician would likely see Spot's controlled substances history due to a shared address, even though John and Spot do not share a last name.

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