

October 2, 2009

Dear Colleague,

In 2006, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 205, which directed the Vermont Department of Health to develop the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System. The purpose of this legislation is to promote public health by enhancing opportunities for treatment and preventing abuse of controlled substances, without interfering with the legal medical use of those substances. I am writing now to invite you to register to use the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (VPMS). VPMS is a web-based tool operated by the Vermont Department of Health, with the goal of providing timely and useful information to both prescribers and pharmacists to assist them in the proper treatment of their patients. VPMS maintains a patient-specific database of schedules II-IV controlled substances dispensed by Vermont licensed pharmacies. Once you have registered, you will be able to query the records of your current patients using a web portal.

#### Benefits of VPMS

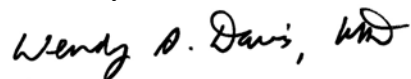
1. Provides useful information to prescribers on their own prescribing, along with information on a patient's complete controlled substance prescription history.
2. Facilitates coordination of care among health care providers.
3. Provides information for a provider who suspects a patient may not be complying with an order or contract regarding prescription use.
4. Identifies patients who can benefit from early assessment and treatment for abuse of or addiction to controlled substance.

To register to use the database, simply complete the enclosed Health Care Provider/Dispenser Access Request Form and the Privacy Statement Form. Please note that the Health Care Provider/Dispenser Access Form must be notarized. Return the completed forms, along with a copy of your license and DEA certification, to:

Vermont Department of Health  
Vermont Prescription Monitoring System  
108 Cherry Street, PO Box 70  
Burlington, Vermont 05402

Early feedback from clinicians who are using this system has been extremely positive, and I hope that you will strongly consider becoming a registered provider. If you have any questions, please contact the Program's Coordinator, Meika Zilberberg, at 802-652-4147, or at [mzilber@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:mzilber@vdh.state.vt.us).

Sincerely,



Wendy Davis, MD  
Commissioner

