



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

June 11, 2014

Dear Colleague,

As the nation's drug overdose epidemic continues to peak, we would like to share some critical information with you on the potentially lethal combination of benzodiazepines and opioids. Please carefully read the attached document prepared by the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

A great resource for access to prescription data and safer management your patients' use of controlled substances is the Maryland Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, otherwise known as the PDMP. This free service can inform you whether your patients are receiving medications from other sources. We strongly recommend that all clinicians prescribing opioid medications regularly query the PDMP. Please visit the following website for more information and to register:

<http://adaa.dhmh.maryland.gov/PDMP/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Secretary

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