

Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs and the Neurosurgeon: Impact on Workflow and Overall Perceptions

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Learning Objectives

- Understand the benefits and challenges associated with the PDMP
- Recognize the impact of the PDMP upon neurosurgical workflow
- Identify challenges associated with use and implementation of a PDMP

Introduction

- Legislation creating the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) has been enacted in every state.
- Thirty-four states require mandatory verification prior to distributing outpatient controlled substances in a clinical setting.
- The burdens placed upon neurosurgeons, especially in the context of the postoperative patient with anticipated pain, have not been studied.

Methods

- A 30-question online survey was sent to 5,668 members of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.
- Six-hundred seventeen responses were received (11% response rate).
- STATA SE15 was utilized to analyze the results using two-tailed t-tests.

Results

- Within the subgroup of respondents who live in one of 34 states with mandatory clinical PDMP verification, 33% stated that it takes 3 minutes or more to evaluate the average patient (p = .03)
- 32% believed that checking the PDMP adds time and creates disruptions in workflow (p = .04)
- 35% felt that the PDMP was unhelpful in prescribing pain medications (p = .001)
- Of overall respondents, the PDMP helped identify patients with potential abuse issues by detecting: Multiple prescriptions (60%, p=.001); inappropriate refills (29%, p=.001); and false reporting of medication history (40%; p = .001)

Conclusions

- Mandatory PDMP verification may create workflow interruptions and restrict patient access to necessary postoperative opioids.
- PDMP's may assist neurosurgeons in identifying potential medication misuse.
- This study represents the first in which neurosurgeons were specifically surveyed and responded to the benefits and challenges of participating in a PDMP.

References

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