

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2280-MC-FFS-D

DATE: February 1, 2022

TO: Iowa Medicaid Physicians, Dentists, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Therapeutically Certified Optometrists, Podiatrists, Pharmacies, Home Health Agencies, Rural Health Clinics, Clinics, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, Nursing Facilities – Mental ILL, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Indian Health Service, Maternal Health Centers, Certified Nurse Midwife, Community Mental Health, Family Planning, Residential Care Facilities, ICF/ID State and Community-Based ICF/ID Providers, and Physician Assistants

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS), Dental (D)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid

RE: Provider Requirements for Prescribing Controlled Substances

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2021

Section 5042 of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act, codified in [42 U.S.C. 1396w-3a](#)¹, requires covered providers who are permitted to prescribe controlled substances and who participate in Medicaid to query qualified prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) before prescribing controlled substances to most Medicaid beneficiaries. In Iowa, the PDMP is known as the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) or [Iowa PMP AWARE](#)².

Documentation of the query of the database within the PMP must be made in the member's file by the prescribing provider. Subject to the requirements under [Iowa Code chapter 124](#)³, subchapter VI, if the provider is not able to conduct a review of the PMP, the member's file should include the reasons the provider was not able to complete the review. Upon request of the Iowa Medicaid program, the prescribing provider shall submit the documentation.

¹ <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title42-section1396w-3a&num=0&edition=prelim>

² [Login - IOWA PMP AWARE \(pmpaware.net\)](#)

³ <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/chapter/124.pdf>

This does not apply to Medicaid members who are receiving inpatient hospice care or long-term residential facility care.

If you have any questions, please contact Provider Services by email at IMEProviderServices@dhs.state.ia.us, by phone at 1-800-338-7909, or locally at 515-256-4609.