



State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

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Executive Director

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MEDIA ALERT

Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing reports explosive growth to statewide Controlled Substance Database since House Bill 28 signed into law

"Online changes boost medical professionals and law enforcement fight against prescription drug abuse"
(For immediate release...)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – The Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing announced today that online usage of the Utah Controlled Substance Database has skyrocketed by 151% since the implementation of House Bill 28. Already, 94% of active prescribing practitioners have complied with the new law's requirements to register with the Controlled Substance Database by September 30, 2010.

"Prescription drug abuse continues to be a serious public health and safety issue for the people Utah," said Governor Gary R. Herbert, who signed the bill into law earlier this year. "By making these online tools faster and easier to use, doctors, pharmacists and law enforcement are better equipped to stop these abusers before they shop the next doctor or pharmacy."

"I applaud the medical community for stepping up and not only registering for the Controlled Substance Database but also using it at such an explosive pace," said Representative Bradley Daw (R-Orem) who sponsored H.B. 28, "Prescription drug abuse is not something that can be solved overnight, but if everyone involved in dispensing, prescribing and using these substances works together, we can save lives."

New reports by DOPL show a significant increase in usage of the Controlled Substance Database among the following categories;

- 251% increase in Prescriber accounts in 5 months since H. B. 28 took effect
- number of prescribing medical practitioners actively searching the database more than tripled from 7% to 23% during 2010
- 15,000 more monthly searches by pharmacists since December 2009

"The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing pledges continued support and ongoing education efforts to make sure that everyone who could benefit from the database is accessing it, and accessing it often", said Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce.

About the Controlled Substance Database

The Utah Controlled Substance Database is housed within the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing and provides an online tool for medical professionals, law enforcement to track prescribing patterns of doctors, pharmacists and patients to ensure no crimes are being committed. The Utah Controlled Substance Database Program tracks and collects data on the dispensing of Schedule II-V drugs by all retail, institutional, and outpatient hospital pharmacies, and in-state/out-of-state mail order pharmacies. The data is disseminated to medical and law enforcement professionals and used to identify potential cases of drug over-utilization, misuse, and over-prescribing of controlled substances throughout the state.

About the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL)

The Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) is both a licensing and enforcement division within the Utah Department of Commerce responsible for over 180,000 professional licensees. The Division has an investigations unit that enforces Utah law which reflects the different licensing categories managed by DOPL.

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