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Audit of MN Prescription Tracking System on Hold Due to COVID-19

Every state has a tracking system for medically-prescribed controlled substances. Minnesota requires two different audits of the state’s prescription monitoring system. This first-in-the-nation state law aims to make sure that outsiders are not looking at the prescription records of people they have no business looking at, such as when Prince died and people with access, like doctors, pharmacists and their staff, looked into the system to find out what medications he was prescribed.

But now, in the midst of COVID-19, the Minnesota Pharmacy Board has suspended an audit. Although we’re not sure this is legally permitted, the Board put the audit “temporarily on hold due to current stress on health care providers.” This means, until further notice, health care facilities will not have to check to make sure that clinicians and staff are only looking at the data of their own patients and only when required.

“2 Minn. Pharmacists Disciplined for Accessing Medical Record of Deceased Individuals, One of Them Prince,” KSTP, October 24, 2017 (10:48 PM) - no longer online