

CURES/ PDMP FAQ

1. What is CURES?

The [California Utilization, Review and Evaluation System Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#) (CURES/ PDMP) is an electronic database intended to track the dispensation of Schedule II-IV controlled substances in California pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11165. The CURES database captures data from all Schedule II-IV controlled substance prescriptions filled by pharmacies and dispensed by health care professionals. Law enforcement and regulatory agencies use the data to assist in their efforts to control the diversion and abuse of controlled substances. In addition, health care providers can utilize the database to check the controlled substance history of a client or patient.

2. Who oversees CURES?

The California Department of Justice (DOJ), [Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement](#) oversees the CURES/ PDMP program. In 2022, the DOJ contracted with a vendor called Bamboo Health to develop and maintain an online reporting system for CURES.

3. Who is required to report to CURES?

Any pharmacy that fills prescriptions for schedule II-IV controlled substances and any health care practitioner (including a veterinarian) who dispenses schedule II-IV controlled substances to clients/ patients is required to report to CURES. “Dispense” means that the practitioner takes a controlled substance out of practice inventory and gives it to client/ patient to take home.

4. If I don't dispense Schedule II-IV controlled substances and I only write prescriptions for them, do I need to register to be a CURES reporter?

All individuals practicing in California who possess both a state regulatory board license authorized to prescribe, dispense, furnish or order controlled substances and a Drug Enforcement Administration Controlled Substance Registration Certificate (DEA Certificate) must register to use CURES by January 1, 2016.

5. How do I register as a CURES reporter?

To gain access to the CURES/ PDMP system, you must first register electronically as a CURES reporter on the California Department of Justice website by clicking [here](#).

6. I have my CURES registration, now what?

As a CURES reporter, you are mandated to submit a report of all dispensed controlled substances to the DOJ within 7 days of dispensation. The DOJ has contracted a company called Bamboo Health to develop and maintain an online report submission system. CURES reporters must register with Bamboo Health in order to gain access to their reporting site. For questions, please contact Bamboo Health at (855)-502-0999 (Office) or submit a ticket at <https://pmpclearinghouse.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>

7. Can a staff member log on to submit the report for the veterinarian?

Yes, but keep in mind that as the licensee, the veterinarian is ultimately responsible to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of the reports.

8. What happens if a week goes by and I have not dispensed out any controlled substances to clients?

The law does not mandate you to do anything but the DOJ has requested that CURES reporters log a “Seven Day, Zero Fill” report in the system. There is no penalty if CURES reporters do not file this report. Specific instructions on how to file a “Seven Day, Zero Fill” report can be found on [page 12](#) of the [CURES instruction booklet](#).

9. The online reporting system requires an NDC number for each controlled substance that I dispense. What is an NDC number?

“NDC” stands for National Drug Code. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) assigns every drug a unique 11-digit number and keeps a current catalog of all numbers in an [online directory](#). Legend or generic drugs will have an NDC number printed on their label or included on a data sheet enclosed in their packaging.

10. I am using compounded controlled substances and I do not see an NDC number on the vial or packaging. What do I enter on my CURES report?

The CURES instruction booklet, [page 6](#), directs users to enter eleven “9s” in the NDC form field entry when recording dispensed compounded controlled substances.

11. What information has to be collected from the client when I dispense a controlled substance to them?

You will need to obtain the following information:

- Client Name (first and last)
- Client Address
- Client Gender
- Client Date of Birth (human not animal)
- Animal Name
- Animal Species
- Animal Gender

A sample log form can be accessed [here](#).

12. What if I have old weekly reports that I never submitted to CURES?

The Department of Justice has released the following statement: “Please begin with current dispensing information and stay current, and continue to work backwards as time permits.”

13. Can I record dispensation reports on a paper log throughout the week and then transfer them to the online electronic database at the end of the week?

Yes. [Here](#) is a sample log form that you can utilize to collect needed information.

14. How long do I have to keep records of weekly controlled substance dispensation logs?

Theoretically, if you are submitting electronic reports on a weekly basis, the CURES database will record for you indefinitely. However, the CVMA recommends that you keep a separate log of all dispensed controlled substances for two years.

15. Can I access the CURES/ PDMP system to obtain information about my client's prescription history?

Yes. The [CURES/PDMP](#) system allows authorized users to access patient controlled substance history information at the point of care. See below.

16. How do I get access to the PDMP to look up clients?

If you have registered as a CURES reporter, you already have access by logging in [here](#). You can register for access at the CURES 2.0 Registration page [here](#) if you have not yet done so.

17. Where can I find more information about CURES?

Visit the [CVMA CURES page](#) or the [DOJ CURES/ PDMP](#) page.