



The Massachusetts Chapter

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May 21, 2013

Dear Senator,

The Massachusetts Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (MCAAP) represents over 1800 pediatricians practicing in the Commonwealth.

The MCAAP urges you to support the following amendment to the State Budget:

**AMENDMENT # 562, SCHEDULE V MEDICATIONS, RELATIVE TO THE
PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM
SPONSOR: SENATOR MICHAEL MOORE**

There appears to be ambiguity regarding implementation of the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) in Chapter 244 of the Acts of 2012 which has led to DPH draft regulations that would require physicians to use PMP prior to seeing any new patient, regardless of the age of the patient or the purpose or setting of the patient encounter.

As drafted, the regulations would require a pediatrician to access PMP for any new patient, including a newborn. Other examples that would trigger PMP utilization would include school and camp physicals and vaccine administration for a new patient. Children are rarely prescribed narcotic medications and in those cases utilization of the PMP may be appropriate. A requirement for all new pediatric patient encounters be subject to PMP would not improve quality of care or decrease inappropriate utilization of narcotic medications and would be unnecessarily burdensome to pediatric practices. The MCAAP has expressed our concerns to DPH.

Amendment 562 would clarify any contradictory interpretations of Chapter 244. The amendment would exempt physicians from required usage of the PMP in "instances in which, based on a patient's age, care setting or purpose of the visit, the prescriber does not anticipate prescribing a schedule II, III, IV opioid."

Adoption of Amendment 562 would clarify the provisions of Chapter 244, and allow the PMP to become a workable and efficient tool in combating narcotic addiction and abuse without threatening our ability to provide appropriate care to the patients of the Commonwealth.

The MCAAP urges the Senate to adopt Amendment # 562

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John O'Reilly, M.D., FAAP
President