



**Texas Features the Nation’s Model Prescription Monitoring Program
Fund the Electronic Health Record Integration Once Again in 2021
SB 1827, HB 4284 & HB 1 Will Fund the Prescription Monitoring Program**

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy’s prescription monitoring program (PMP) served as one of the Texas Legislature’s tools for addressing “doctor shopping.” The 86th Texas Legislature approved funding in the state’s budget to acquire the software integration tool for prescribers to integrate the PMP into their electronic health records (EHRs) for the purpose of looking up a patient’s prescription record in a seamless manner.

The medical organizations listed above represent physicians who treat patients with both acute injuries and chronic pain. They recognize the importance of the 86th Legislature’s decision to create funding for the software integration tool and respectfully request that the 87th Legislature make a similar commitment.

Texas must ensure that the PMP is fully funded. In 2019, Texas joined other states to dedicate funding to pay for the Appriss Health gateway license for each physician user. The medical specialties believe that a fully funded PMP is a strong tool for reducing the misuse of prescription opioid drugs. We encourage the Legislature to appropriate funding to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy for program updates and enhancements.

SB 1827 and HB 4284 contain important PMP measures. These two bills related to the Opioid Settlement Abatement Account contain important provisions that would allow opioid settlement dollars to be used for items such as the PMP.

HB 1’s House version funds the Pharmacy Board’s exception item request. HB 1’s House version funds the Pharmacy Board’s exceptional item request to fund the PMP, and it is critical for budget conferees to continue the funding in conference.