



nabp

## National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

1600 Feehanville Drive • Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Tel: 847/391-4406 • Fax: 847/391-4502

Web Site: [www.nabp.net](http://www.nabp.net)

### **About NABP**

Established in 1904, NABP is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization. NABP's membership includes the Boards of Pharmacy in the 50 US States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, eight Canadian provinces and New Zealand. NABP has over 100 years of experience in providing regulatory support and assistance to its member boards, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Justice and other state and federal regulatory and patient safety agencies and organizations, all in the interest of protecting the public's health, safety and welfare.

NABP knows how to work with the states individually and collectively to solve problems which are nationwide in scope, such as interstate data sharing from prescription monitoring programs, as evidenced by its long history working with various stakeholders at the federal and state levels, and not just with boards of pharmacy.

### **Timeline of Prescription Monitoring Program (PMPi)**

Recognizing NABP's background in assisting boards of pharmacy and other regulators in protecting the public health, NABP was approached by several PMP administrators in the fall of 2010 about building a low cost, highly enhanced solution for interstate data sharing that could be implemented in under a year. After exploring the matter and receiving a directive from NABP's Executive Committee, NABP began the process of developing PMPi. PMPi will be functional in less than 9 months from the initial announcement of the system. The total development time for the system, based on the current schedule will be completed in less than 7 months. The following is a detailed timeline of milestones for PMPi:

**November 16, 2010** – NABP Announces intent to build PMP Interconnect, to facilitate interstate data sharing. PMPi will be offered at little or no costs to state PMPs and will a feature greatly enhanced functionality that will be fully implemented along an aggressive timeline. Ultimately, bringing about a cost-effective, highly functional and timely data sharing solution about in under 9 months.

**January 6, 2011** – NABP holds Joint Application Development session with PMP administrators for the purpose of creating business requirements for a functional design specification.

**March 1, 2011** – NABP holds an initial meeting of interested stakeholders, including

PMP administrators, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, other Federal Government agencies, national associations and interested stakeholders. The purpose of the initial meeting was twofold:

1. Look for opportunities to collaborate and build a consensus on interstate data sharing with PMP Administrators, BJA and BJA grantees, such as the Alliance for States with Prescription Monitoring Programs and the IJIS Institute.
2. Identify PMP administrators to serve as the Steering Committee that will govern and supervise the administration of PMPi.

**March 25, 2011** – NABP meets with members of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the IJIS Institute, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to discuss the PMP Interconnect and to continue the dialogue on PMPi and interstate data sharing. Future meetings and collaboration with these parties are expected and welcomed by NABP.

**May 1, 2011** – Begin pilot of the PMPi Administrative Console

**May 31, 2011** – Begin pilot of the PMPi with full functionality and data exchange with selected PMPs.

**July 30, 2011** – PMPi launched for live use by initial pilot states, with the remaining state PMPs coming online according to their schedules.

### **Function of PMPi**

NABP's PMPi offers a cost-effective and highly efficient solution to facilitate interstate data sharing. PMPi, in basic terms, closely mirrors the current iteration of the Bureau of Justice Assistance-sponsored Prescription Monitoring Program Information Exchange (PMIX). PMPi does, however provide a significant set of enhancements, some of which were previously considered, but not implemented in PMIX. For example, PMPi:

- Provides a rules engine that can be maintained and customized according to each state's unique statutes, regulations or program policies. The rules engine also serves as a filter to reject otherwise unauthorized or incomplete requests, saving PMPs time and resources that can be utilized to manage the expected increase in usage due to the ease of requesting data from multiple states using the PMPi.
- Supports the ability of a PMP user to make a single request to the PMPi (through their state's PMP program software/portal) that can be sent to multiple PMPs, resulting in a single, collated response back from multiple disclosing PMPs if authorized.
- Provides enhanced messaging back to the PMP user through their PMP program software that explains why they did not receive a successful response from a disclosing PMP(s).
- Provides statistical information, including hourly/daily/monthly statistics on the usage of their PMP via PMPi, as well as statistics on national usage of PMPi.
- Provides auditing and accountability controls that allow a PMP administrator to audit their users, as well as data requests by other PMPs

### **Collaboration with Federal Partners**

In the spirit of collaboration and wanting to bring about interstate data sharing that meets the unique needs of each PMP, NABP continues to work closely with the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the IJIS Institute. In particular, the parties are working to create an interface that will allow PMPi and PMIX to communicate with each other. Such a solution will allow PMPs to choose which inter-state sharing solution best suits their specific needs.

### **Security Updates**

The initial functional specification for PMPi, contained a single layer of encryption via SSL at the request level. This was believed to be necessary in order for the rules engine to be able to reconcile requests at PMPi and thus preventing unauthorized requests from reaching the disclosing states. To address some concerns raised by PMPs administrators, PMPi will now doubly encrypt all information within the request, but will simply reveal to the hub whether or not fields within the request are populated. This will allow the rules engine to reconcile the request against the rules of the disclosing states. In other words, no personally identifiable information of the requestor or the patient will be visible to PMPi. This change allows PMPi to maintain its enhanced functionality, but with an additional layer of security. Further, this change will also help facilitate PMPi to be able to more effectively “talk” to PMIX via the aforementioned collaborative effort.

### **Governance**

PMPi will be governed by a Steering Committee, comprised **exclusively** of representatives of the PMPs participating in the system. The Steering Committee will serve as the governing and advisory body as it relates to the administration and function of PMPi. **No outside organization, public or private,** will have any access to the PMPi, a vote about, influence over, or ability to direct the administration and function of PMPi. Outside parties, to include the Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs, the IJIS Institute, BJA, DEA, NAMSDDL, SAMHSA, and NASCSA, as well as representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, were invited to and many were present at the first organizational meeting of the Steering Committee to provide for an atmosphere of open communications and collaboration opportunities. These entities are not, however members of the Steering Committee. Outside parties may be asked to attend future meetings if needed to provide specific information such as technical information about the program, or to observe and continue open dialog and collaboration, however the outside parties will have no voice or decision-making authority in the establishment of policy for the PMPi.

The system is built for use by all PMPs, regardless of the agency in which the PMP is housed. Each participating PMP will have an equal voice and vote in the administration and function of PMPi. As per NABP’s Bylaws and Constitution, significant changes in the current direction or policy of PMPi, as with any NABP program, would require ratification by NABP’s Executive Committee. For example, if the Steering Committee recommended a change to security requirements, or advised a substantial functional or structural change, such decisions would require ratification by the Executive Committee. As the Executive Committee fully supports this project, and is seeking wide participation from all PMPs, it will give the same weight and consideration to recommendations of the

Steering Committee as with recommendations from the members of NABP.

### **Cost/Funding**

NABP will use its existing resources to fund the development of the PMPI and five years of annual participation fees for all participating states. It is NABP's goal for PMPs to **never** have to pay annual participation fees to participate in the PMPI.

To supplement NABP's existing resources and assist in subsidizing the PMPi, NABP is also exploring the establishment of a PMP data submission clearinghouse that would serve as a single submission point for pharmacies that have to report to multiple PMPs. The clearinghouse would then parse, validate (to a limited extent) and standardize the data and submit it to each PMP, according to each PMP program's unique standards. Participating pharmacies would pay a user fee to participate in the service, which would create a funding source for the PMPI.

NABP will also seek **unrestricted** support grants that will be administered through the NABP Foundation. Grantors will have no influence, decision-making authority or consideration relative to the direction, governance or administration of the PMPi. As discussed above, the establishment of PMPi policy rests with the Steering Committee.

The NABP Foundation was established to support educational and regulatory initiatives that protect the public health and has been instrumental in developing new programs for NABP and the state boards of pharmacy. The Foundation fulfills its purpose through various educational and other programs developed to meet the needs of administrative officers, members, inspectors, and legal counsel of the state boards of pharmacy, as well as other regulators, pharmacy law instructors, pharmacists, other healthcare professionals and consumers

### **Ownership and Operation of PMPi**

PMPi is owned and operated by NABP, at the direction of the PMPi Steering Committee. NABP has contracted out the operations and hosting of the PMPi to Appriss, Inc., of Louisville, KY, which will provide 24/7/365 PMP user and administrator support over operations of the PMPi. NABP will provide policy and other administrative support services to participating PMPs to configure and maintain their PMP to PMPi. The PMPi will initially be housed in Louisville, KY in secure, redundant facilities operated by the vendor, who maintains a number of programs which provide for administration of highly sensitive and secure information, and maintains an appropriate environment for the PMPi.

With over 100 years of providing regulatory support and assistance solely in the interest of the public health, NABP is uniquely positioned to provide a financially stable and long-term home for an interstate data sharing solution. While NABP may seek unrestricted grants or develop new revenue-generating programs to offset at least partial costs associated with PMPi, NABP is not solely reliant on grant or new program funds to implement or sustain the program for at least the five years promised to states. Such grants comprise 1% of annual revenues, and are not significant to the financial well being of NABP.

### **Legal Foundation for Participation in PMPi**

Participating PMPs will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (or contract) with NABP to utilize PMPi to facilitate interstate data sharing. As permissible by state law, the MOU may prevent PMPs from having to enter into individual MOUs with each state with which they wish to share data. (NOTE: States with laws that dictate that individual state to state MOUs must be executed may still participate in PMPi and can configure the PMPi to function only with those states where those individual MOU's have been executed).

PMPs in North Dakota, Ohio, and Virginia have already executed MOUs to participate in PMPi. MOUs can be fashioned to adhere to state-specific needs and requirements. As a point of reference, NABP has MOUs and/or contracts in place with all 50 states for programs and services that it has been offering for decades.

The MOU clearly delineates NABP's responsibilities as the solution provider and PMP responsibilities as terms for participation. A participating state PMP may terminate the MOU for any reason with only 30 days written notice. Further, if NABP fails to adhere to its responsibilities, in addition to the state terminating the MOU, NABP will offer a grant to the PMP, totaling the remainder of the calendar year's annual participation fees.