

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

(2) The Commission shall undertake efforts to develop a regional drug review program of the Mid-Atlantic states for the purpose of collecting and compiling relevant data in regard to patterns of improper prescribing or dispensing practices of all drugs available by prescription.

E. Responsibilities of the Division of Drug Control.

(1) The Division of Drug Control shall collect, review, and analyze the prescribing and dispensing patterns of persons authorized by law to prescribe or dispense prescription drugs and incidences of patient abuse and misuse.

(2) The Division of Drug Control shall refer credible information regarding illegal drug diversion or the abuse or misuse of prescription drugs to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation.

(3) The Division of Drug Control shall analyze on an on-going basis information regarding prescriber, dispenser, or patient abuse or misuse. The review of prescribers shall focus on analyzing repeated patterns of prescribing prescription drugs outside the normal medical practice standards. The review of dispensers shall focus on analyzing the dispensing of prescription drugs where the rate of dispensation is higher than what is considered normal for a comparable dispenser. The review of patients shall focus on analyzing patterns of doctor or pharmacy shopping accompanied by high fill or refill rates of drugs dispensed by prescription.

(4) Based upon its review of such cases, the Division of Drug Control shall report any irregularities discovered to the appropriate State or federal agency or disciplinary board.

(5) On a monthly basis, the Division of Drug Control shall submit a report of its findings to the Commission. That report shall summarize the number and types of abuses identified. The report shall also point out actions taken by a State or federal agency or disciplinary board, the disposition of closed cases, and other relevant statistical information that may interest or be useful to the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities.

(6) The Division of Drug Control through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall promulgate regulations to implement this Executive Order.

F. Responsibilities of State Agencies and Disciplinary Boards.

(1) The appropriate law enforcement agency or disciplinary board shall take appropriate action on creditable information regarding illegal drug diversion, abuse or misuse of prescription drugs referred by the Division of Drug Control.

(2) A disciplinary board that receives referrals in regard to prescriber, dispenser, or patient abuse or misuse of prescription drugs shall report, consistent with applicable law, to the Division of Drug Control within 45 days of final disposition, the manner in which the referrals were resolved.

(3) All State agencies and disciplinary boards shall cooperate with the