



# PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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## **Pa. family physicians ready for prescription monitoring program**

### **‘ABC-MAP’ program needed quickly to aid in fight against opioid epidemic**

*(HARRISBURG, PA – March 29, 2016)* The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) has supported and worked for years on advancing a state prescription drug monitoring program for Schedule II through V controlled substances. Despite the program approaching a yearlong delay in implementation, family physicians are looking forward to using this important tool.

On Oct. 27, 2014, then-Gov. Tom Corbett signed into law Act 191 of 2014, which created the Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions program (ABC-MAP). Within Act 191, the law set the program’s implementation date as June 30, 2015.

The PAFP’s support of a prescription monitoring program in Pennsylvania goes back to 2009, when state Rep. Gene DiGirolamo first developed legislation on the topic. An ardent supporter of addiction treatment, DiGirolamo was instrumental in moving forward discussion and legislation of what ultimately become the final bills years later. House Health Chairman Rep. Matt Baker also championed legislation, as did Senate Public Health and Welfare Chairwoman Sen. Pat Vance, who authored the bill that ultimately became law.

“It has been a long haul, but there is light at the end of the tunnel,” said PAFP President Robert Rodak, DO. “For years, our colleagues around the country have told us about the benefits of such a tool. Now, our hope is that the Pa. Dept. of Health will pool all available resources to ensure the program be launched this summer in Pennsylvania, and we look forward to readying our members.”

Meanwhile, the PAFP has made available to its members Pennsylvania’s opioid prescribing guidelines, and perhaps more importantly, is currently examining the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention's (CDC) recently released opioid prescribing guidelines with guidance from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The AAFP is in the process of putting the new guidelines through a rigorous review process.

The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and its Foundation supports its members (including nearly 80 percent of Pennsylvania family physicians) through advocacy and education to ensure a patient-centered medical home for every Pennsylvanian. The Academy and its Foundation are the leading influential resource among family physicians and physicians in training in Pennsylvania; the primary voice on health care issues with state legislative and administrative branches of government, media and professional health organizations; and the leader on health care issues in the community.

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