



Kansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Prescribers and Pharmacists Registered with K-TRACS

From: K-TRACS, the Kansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

**RE: National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Recommendations for Prescribing and Dispensing Controlled Substances**

KAR 68-20-18 (b)(1) identifies the responsibility for prescribing and dispensing controlled substances:

“To be effective, a prescription for a controlled substance shall be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by a practitioner or mid-level practitioner acting in the usual course of professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances shall rest with the prescriber, but a corresponding responsibility shall rest with the pharmacist who fills the prescription. The person filling an unlawful prescription, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of the provisions of the controlled substance act, K.S.A. 65- 4101, et. seq. and amendments thereto.”

The National Transportation Safety Board has adopted a safety study that contains recommendations related to the operation of all modes of transportation while using prescription drugs.

I-14-1

Include in all state guidelines regarding prescribing controlled substances for pain a recommendation that health care providers discuss with patients the effect their medical condition and medication use may have on their ability to safely operate a vehicle in any mode of transportation.

I-14-2

Use existing newsletters or other routine forms of communications with licensed health care providers and pharmacists to highlight the importance of routinely discussing with patients the effect their diagnosed medical conditions or recommended drugs may have on their ability to safely operate a vehicle in any mode of transportation.

Read the [full NTSB study online](#).

The Kansas Prescription Drug Monitoring Program supports the safe utilization of controlled substance medications, including proper patient counseling, usage, and disposal. Prescribers and pharmacists should regularly counsel patients on the effects their medical condition and medication use may have on their ability to safely operate a vehicle in any mode of transportation.

The following resources are available on the [K-TRACS website](#) to assist with clinical decision-making regarding prescribing of controlled substances:

- CDC Opioid Prescribing Guidelines
- Safer/Competent Opioid Prescribing Education (SCOPE)
- Avoid Co-Prescribing Opioids and Benzodiazepines
- Naloxone Co-Prescribing Best Practices
- Electronic Prescribing of Opiates (KSA 65-16,128)
- Chronic Pain Management Toolkit for Family Physicians
- Kansas Joint Policy Statement on the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Chronic Pain