

## How the MEDITECH EHR Helps Meet CARA 2016 Provisions

### Executive Summary

Statistics from the CDC confirm the United States is experiencing an opioid epidemic: In 2014, nearly 2 million Americans abused or were dependent on prescription opioids.<sup>1</sup> In 2016, more than 40% of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths involved a prescription opioid, with more than 46 people dying every day from overdoses involving prescription opioids.<sup>2</sup>

In response, the federal government passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016, which authorizes \$181 million in funding each year to key areas such as incorporating prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) data into providers' workflow.<sup>3</sup>

MEDITECH's EHR improves how your organization manages controlled substances, with direct access to controlled medication histories and standard reports for monitoring e-prescribing.

### CARA Background

Signed into law by President Obama in July 2016, CARA authorizes funding for grants in six key areas: prevention, treatment, recovery, law enforcement, criminal justice reform, and overdose reversal. Funding must be allocated annually through the regular appropriations process.

The legislation includes provisions to:

- Expand the availability of naloxone to law enforcement agencies and other first responders to help in the reversal of overdoses to save lives.
- Expand disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of children and adolescents.
- Expand resources to identify and treat incarcerated individuals suffering from addiction disorders by collaborating with criminal justice stakeholders and by providing evidence-based treatment.
- Launch a medication-assisted treatment and intervention demonstration program.
- Strengthen PDMPs to help states monitor and track prescription drug diversion and to help at-risk individuals access services.<sup>4</sup>

Narrowing in on the section of the bill that relates to PDMPs, Section 109 states:

[CARA] directs HHS to include, in the criteria for grant funding for states, a plan to apply the latest advances in health information technology in order to incorporate prescription drug monitoring program data directly into the workflow of prescribers and dispensers to ensure timely access to patients' controlled prescription drug history. This must apply to at least one health information technology system such as an electronic health records system, a health information exchange, or an e-prescribing system.<sup>5</sup>

With MEDITECH's EHR, organizations are able to incorporate PDMP data into prescribers' workflow, ensuring they have timely access to their patients' controlled medication histories. In addition, our standard reports help organizations to monitor e-prescribing settings and controlled substance prescriptions.

## Learn More

Select your MEDITECH platform below see what your system can do for you.

[Expanse](#)

[6.1](#)

[6.0](#)

[C/S](#)

[MAGIC](#)

## References

1. CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Prescription Opioid Overdose Data. <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/overdose.html> Updated June 21, 2016. Accessed 6 Aug. 2018.
2. "Prescription Opioid Overdose Data | Drug Overdose | CDC Injury Center." 1 Aug. 2017, <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/overdose.html> Accessed 6 Aug. 2018.
3. US Congress. S 524 - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. Sec 109. <https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/s524/BILLS-114s524eah.pdf> July 21, 2016. Accessed December 6, 2016.
4. Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) <http://www.cadca.org/comprehensive-addiction-and-recovery-act-cara> Accessed 6 Aug. 2018.
5. US Congress. S 524 - Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. Sec 109. <https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/s524/BILLS-114s524eah.pdf> July 21, 2016. Accessed 6 Aug. 2018.