

# EHR-PDMP INTEGRATION ENHANCES PATIENT ENCOUNTERS

- Independent Internal Medicine Practice in Savannah, GA
- Focuses on treating acute complaints and chronic diseases
- Founded by Dr. Yulianty Kusuma, MD in 2012

## The Challenge

Like many clinicians in the state of Georgia, Dr. Kusuma and her staff encountered a common challenge: finding time to offer sufficient face-to-face interaction with each patient. The most time-consuming step during a patient encounter—a step in which Dr. Kusuma had to disengage from the patient—was obvious; it was the back and forth between the electronic health record (EHR) and the Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). [Per the Georgia Department of Public Health](#), prescribers are "required to check PDMP before prescribing opiates or cocaine derivatives in Schedule II drugs or benzodiazepine." For Dr. Kusuma and her staff, this meant exiting the patient's record in the EHR, logging into the PDMP, running a patient query, and sorting through the patient's prescription history before returning to the EHR—a cumbersome process.

## The Solution

Internal Medicine of Savannah implemented Appriss Health's PMP Gateway to access PDMP information directly in the clinical workflow of their EHR. PMP Gateway is a managed service that increases the ease of access and use of PDMP information for making critical decisions around the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances. Through a federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the state of Georgia funds EHR-PDMP integration for all prescribers.

## The Results

Prior to the integration, it took between five and 10 minutes per patient to alternate between the EHR and PDMP. Now, it takes less than one minute per patient in the EHR. This results in several hours each week, which can be used for more face-to-face time with patients or an increased volume of patient appointments for both Dr. Kusuma and her nurse practitioner.

The integration has also reduced stress levels. Aside from the convenience and efficiency, **PMP Gateway offers users a patient matching rate well over 99% and a consolidated, easy-to-view patient record**—enabling Dr. Kusuma to recognize potential issues like polypharmacy and confidently prescribe controlled substances such as opioids and benzodiazepines.



**Dr. Yulianty Kusuma, MD**  
Founder of Internal  
Medicine of Savannah

*"PMP Gateway has been a game changer. Before Gateway, we spent up to 10 minutes per patient accessing the state's PDMP website or calling the pharmacy to get the information we need. And the patient is sitting there the entire time. Now, with the PDMP data right in our EHR, it takes maybe 30 seconds. I'm able to schedule more appointments yet provide a high-level of personalized care. Every doctor in the state of Georgia should have Gateway access."*