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January 20, 2009

Paige Clark, R.Ph.  
Pharmacist Consultant  
Oregon Board of Pharmacy  
800 NE Oregon St. Suite 150  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Paige,

I am writing in response to your question regarding whether states operating PMPs have experienced any breaches of their PMP systems. As you know, NAMSDL has had the opportunity to work with many of the 38 states that now authorize the establishment and operation of a statewide PMP. Of those 38, 32 are now operational, meaning that they collect data and distribute, or are about to begin distributing, PMP information to authorized users of the system.

I have been in contact with many of the PMP administrators over the last 15 years as they have enhanced, established and maintained their PMP systems. I have periodically queried PMP officials, including in 2008, concerning any breaches of their systems. To date, no PMP official has told me that there has been a breach of his or her PMP system.

I have received no information from other sources suggesting otherwise. As you know, state PMPs have existed since 1939 when California commenced the first such system. The health information collected and maintained by PMPs involve serious privacy and confidentiality issues. Given this, I would have expected to receive information from legal arenas or other professionals who enforce privacy of health information if there had indeed been systematic breaches of the PMPs.

I hope my response is helpful to you. If you have additional questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chief Executive Officer

