



STATE OF OHIO BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

From the Director's Desk

Dear Ohio Pharmacist,

In March, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy opened applications for pharmacy pilot and research projects as outlined under [Ohio Administrative Code 4729:5-3-20](#). This is an opportunity for licensees seeking the approval of a project for innovative system applications in the practice of pharmacy that are not currently permitted under Board rules. These projects should expand pharmaceutical care services that contribute to positive patient outcomes.

Additional information and the form required for submission of a proposal can be found on the Board's [website](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board via [contact @pharmacy.ohio.gov](#) or 614/466-4143.

For the latest information on the Board's coronavirus disease 2019 updates, visit [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID](#). On behalf of the Board, thank you for all that you do to help keep Ohioans safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Schierholt, Esq
Executive Director
State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy

OARRS 2021 Annual Report

As the only statewide electronic database that stores all controlled substance (CS) dispensing and personal furnishing information,

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the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) helps prescribers and pharmacists avoid potentially life-threatening drug interactions, as well as identify individuals fraudulently obtaining CS from multiple health care providers.

The *OARRS 2021 Annual Report* provides data on opioid pain relievers and other CS dispensed by Ohio pharmacies or personally furnished by prescribers in 2021. Highlights from the report include:

- A record use of OARRS: 63,000 pharmacists and prescribers have instant access to OARRS as part of their workflow thanks to the significant onboarding effort throughout the state.
- The number of opioid doses and prescriptions dispensed to Ohio patients continued to decrease. Total doses of opioids decreased from a high of 793 million in 2012 to 319 million in 2021, a 60% decrease. The total number of opioid prescriptions decreased by 7.1 million between 2012 and 2021, a 56% decrease.
- The number of benzodiazepine doses and prescriptions dispensed to Ohio patients continued to decrease. Total doses of benzodiazepines decreased from a high of 297 million in 2012 to 159 million in 2021, a 46% decrease. The total number of benzodiazepine prescriptions decreased by 1.93 million between 2012 and 2021, a 39% decrease.

To learn more about OARRS, please visit www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/oarrs.

Reminder: Pharmacist Exam Application Information for 2022 Graduates

With pharmacy schools preparing for graduation, the Board has published [detailed instructions](#) for pharmacy interns on how to apply for a pharmacist license in the state of Ohio. Interns are also encouraged to check the status of their license by visiting www.license.ohio.gov. Graduates with an active intern license will still be permitted to work under that license until their pharmacist license is granted.

Reminder: Rule Reorganization Crosswalk Available

In 2016, the Board voted to authorize the reorganization of its administrative rules. The goal of this reorganization was to ensure that licensees could better identify rules applicable to the various practice settings/professions regulated by the Board.

As this process is now complete, the Board recently published a [crosswalk document](#). The document includes links to the reorganized Board rules, the effective date of the reorganized rules, and links to the previous version of the rules that were in effect prior to the reorganization (if applicable).

Pharmacy Rules: Effective Now

The Board's institutional pharmacy and facility rules went into effect in February. For more information on complying with these new rules, please review the Board's [Institutional Pharmacy and Facility Inspection Guide](#).

To assist nonresident licensees in complying with Ohio law and rules, the Board recently published a [Non-Resident Terminal Distributor of Dangerous Drugs Inspection Guide](#).

Central Fill Pharmacy Rules and Inspection Guides

The Board's new central fill rules went into effect on February 1, 2022. To assist licensees in complying with the requirements of the rules, the Board updated the following inspection guides:

- [Ohio Outpatient Central Fill Pharmacies*](#)
- [Ohio Institutional Central Fill Pharmacies*](#)
- [Nonresident Central Fill Pharmacies](#)

*These guides have also been updated to include inspection questions for Ohio pharmacies utilizing central fill services (referred to in rule as originating pharmacies).

Reminder: New 2022 CPE Law Quiz Now Available

The 2022 Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) Quiz (Covering 2021 Newsletters) is now available. This quiz provides one contact hour (0.1 CEU) of Board-approved jurisprudence for pharmacists and technicians. For more information on this no-cost continuing education opportunity, please visit www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CPEQuiz22.

Support Personnel Responsibilities Expanded

At its February 2022 meeting, the Board expanded the responsibilities of support personnel. As a reminder, support personnel are unlicensed individuals authorized by the Board to conduct certain activities within a pharmacy. For more information, visit www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/support.

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy News is published by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation® (NABPF®) to promote compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of NABPF or the Board unless expressly so stated.

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