



# STATE OF OHIO BOARD OF PHARMACY

*newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance*

## ***From the Director's Desk***

On August 31, 2022, Ohio observed its second “Ohio Overdose Awareness Day.” The goals of this day are raising awareness, supporting communities in the fight against drug addiction, and remembering loved ones lost to the epidemic.

To ensure that all Ohioans can prevent overdoses, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy recently published **updated versions of the patient counseling brochure**, the *Overdose Recognition and Response Guide*. The brochure can be downloaded in Arabic, Chinese, English, Nepali, Somali, and Spanish.

Copies of the patient counseling brochure in English are available free of charge from the Board by sending a request with the following information to [contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov](mailto:contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov):

- name of requester;
- pharmacy name;
- mailing address;
- phone number; and
- quantity requested (there is a 250-pamphlet limit, but additional requests can be made if the pharmacy is running low).

### ***National Pharmacy Compliance News***

A Service of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation (NABPF)

Visit NABP's website for the latest regulatory updates and news from FDA, USP, NABP, and more.

**[Read National News](#)**

To access the brochures and additional naloxone resources, please visit [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/NaloxoneResources](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/NaloxoneResources).

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

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

## ***Board Releases Updated Guidance on Licensure Verification Prior to Sale***

To help drug distributors and terminal distributors meet the licensure verification requirements of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 4729:6-3-04 and OAC 4729:5-3-04, the Board recently released new and updated guidance:

- [General License Verification Requirements](#)
- [Licensure Requirements and Exemptions for Prescriber Practices](#)
- [Licensure Requirements and Exemptions for Non-Prescriber Practices](#)
- [Exemption Attestation Form](#)

## ***Required OARRS Review for Gabapentin Prescriptions***

Effective November 15, 2022, OAC 4729:5-5-08 has been amended to require pharmacists to check a patient's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) report prior to dispensing medications containing gabapentin. This rule is intended to address an increase in the overutilization of gabapentin as reported by OARRS and Board staff. For example, 24.9% (159,163) of Ohio patients in 2020 received gabapentin from multiple prescribers. Click [here](#) to view the amendments to the rule.

## ***Monkeypox Resources***

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently published *Frequently Asked Questions about Monkeypox* on its website at <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/mpx/monkeypox-faq-2022/monkeypox-faq-2022>.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination for people who have been exposed to monkeypox or are at high risk for exposure. Ohio has been allocated a limited supply of the Jynneos® vaccine due to its lower case count. ODH is working closely with local health departments to distribute the vaccine as quickly as possible to Ohio communities with the highest case counts and highest risk for spread.

The vaccine takes up to six weeks to reach full effectiveness, so other preventive measures are recommended, including avoiding close skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash, avoiding contact with items that a person with monkeypox has used, and washing your hands often with soap and water or using an alcohol-based sanitizer.

Evidence indicates that the virus is spreading mostly through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact with someone who has monkeypox. While anyone can catch monkeypox if they have close contact with someone who has monkeypox, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, many of those affected in the current global outbreaks are gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, according to CDC.

For additional monkeypox resources, please visit [https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Newsletter/2022/Monkeypox%20\(MPX\)%20Resources.pdf](https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Newsletter/2022/Monkeypox%20(MPX)%20Resources.pdf).

For more information on the monkeypox outbreak in the United States and additional methods of prevention other than vaccination, please visit [www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022](http://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022).

## Monkeypox Immunization Guidance

Monkeypox immunizations may be performed by pharmacists and pharmacy interns under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. The immunizations must meet the **requirements** in Ohio law for the administration of vaccinations. This includes requirements to have a physician-approved protocol as well as certain age limitations.

As a reminder, pharmacists and pharmacy interns are to comply with the standards of care set forth by state and federal officials and should familiarize themselves with the requirements of the vaccination, including any additional training on new “dose-sparing” administration techniques.

Technicians are permitted to administer monkeypox vaccinations under a recent **Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act Authorization**.

---

*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.*

*Steven W. Schierholt, Esq - State News Editor*

*Lemrey “Al” Carter, PharmD, MS, RPh - National News Editor & Executive Editor*

*Megan Pellegrini - Publications and Editorial Manager*

---

77 S High St, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6126 | Tel: 614/466-4143 Fax: 614/752-4836 | [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov)