



## WHEN TO CHECK OARRS – PHARMACISTS

Per OAC 4729:5-5-08, prior to dispensing an outpatient prescription for a controlled substance a pharmacist shall request and review an OARRS report covering at least a one year time period in any of the following circumstances:



**RULE 1:** A patient adds a different or new controlled substance to their therapy that was not previously included.



**RULE 2:** An OARRS report has not been reviewed for that patient during the preceding 12 months, as indicated in the patient profile.



**RULE 3:** A prescriber is located outside the usual pharmacy geographic area.



**RULE 4:** A patient is from outside the usual pharmacy geographic area.



**RULE 5:** A pharmacist has reason to believe the patient has received prescriptions for controlled substances from more than one prescriber in the preceding 3 months, unless the prescriptions are from prescribers who practice at the same physical location.



**RULE 6:** Patient is exhibiting signs of potential abuse or diversion. This includes, but is not limited to, over-utilization, early refills, appears overly sedated or intoxicated upon presenting a prescription for a reported drug, or an unfamiliar patient requesting a reported drug by specific name, street name, color, or identifying marks.

Remember: To be valid, a prescription must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by a prescriber acting in the usual course of their practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing is upon the prescriber, however a corresponding responsibility also rests with the pharmacist who dispenses the prescription. Pharmacists shall use professional judgment when making a determination about the legitimacy of a prescription. A pharmacist shall not dispense a prescription of doubtful, questionable, or suspicious origin [OAC 4729-5-5-08 (G), 4729:5-5-10 (A), & 4729:5-5-15 (A)].

It's OK to say no. You might just save a life.



## WHEN TO CHECK OARRS – **PRESCRIBERS**

### **Ohio Law:**

Before initially prescribing or personally furnishing an opioid analgesic or a benzodiazepine to a patient, the prescriber must request patient information from OARRS that covers at least the previous 12 months.

### **Exceptions to this requirement include the following:**

- The drug is prescribed or personally furnished to a hospice patient or to any other patient who has been diagnosed as terminally ill (applies to APRN, PA, MD and DO).
- The drug is prescribed or personally furnished in an amount indicated for a period not to exceed seven days (applies to all prescribers).
- The drug is prescribed or personally furnished for the treatment of cancer or another condition associated with cancer (applies to APRN, PA, MD and DO).
- The drug is administered in a hospital, nursing home, or residential care facility (applies to APRN, PA, MD and DO).
- The drug is prescribed or personally furnished to treat acute pain resulting from a surgical or other invasive procedure or a delivery (applies to physicians only).
- The OARRS report is not available (applies to all prescribers).

### **Ohio Regulations**

Ohio's health care regulatory boards have also adopted regulations on when an OARRS report must be requested:

Medical Board Rules: 4731-11-11, 4731-33-02, 4730-2-10 & 4730-4-02

Nursing Board Rules: 4723-9-12, 4723-9-13

Dental Board Rule 4715-6-01