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## E-News Update July 2022 (Vol. 2)

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### Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988

Effective July 16, 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) transitioned to the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#). Ohioans who are experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis, and their family members, are now able to call, chat, or text the 988 number in order to reach a trained counselor who can offer help and support.

988 builds on the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline system and provides 24/7, free and confidential support to Ohioans in a behavioral health crisis. It is a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or addiction concerns, or any other kind of emotional distress.

Research shows that most calls to the Lifeline can be managed and resolved through a consultation on the phone; however, if a person needs an emergency, in-person response, 988 counselors are trained to connect the person in crisis with a mobile response team, which may be a behavioral health team or first responder team (or a combination of both) who will meet the person at their place of crisis.

For more information, please visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/988](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/988)

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### Certified Pharmacy Technician Renewal and Continuing Education Requirements

Certified pharmacy technician renewal opens on **Monday, August 1, 2022**. As part of the renewal process, and as a condition of maintaining a valid Ohio registration, a certified pharmacy technician is required to maintain a pharmacy technician certification (ExCPT or PTCB).

A certified technician is **not** required to complete the ten contact hours of continuing education that is required for registered pharmacy technicians. The continuing education reported to the certification body (PTCB or NHA for ExCPT) fulfills a certified technician's continuing education obligation.

**Failure to maintain an ExCPT or PTCB certification may result in disciplinary action by the Board. Therefore, all Ohio certified technicians should make sure they have valid certifications before renewing their registration.**

For more information, please visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CT22](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CT22).

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### Dispensing of an Emergency Refill of Medication Without a Prescription

[Section 4729.281 of the Ohio Revised Code](#) authorizes a pharmacist to dispense medications without a prescription under certain conditions. On June 1, 2022, this law was further amended to make the following changes:

- Increases from one to three the number of times that a pharmacist may dispense certain refills without a prescription to a specific patient within a 12-month period.
- Requires a health insurer to cover prescription drugs dispensed under the act if those

drugs are already covered under the insurer's health benefit plan, and prohibits the insurer from imposing a cost-sharing requirement that is greater than that imposed on a drug dispensed with a prescription.

For questions regarding the dispensing of an emergency refill, please review the [guidance document](#) posted on the Board's website.

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## Update: Pharmacist Workload Advisory Committee

In 2021, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy created the Pharmacist Workload Advisory Committee (PWAC) to ensure compliance with the following Ohio laws and rules:

- [Section 4729.55](#), which states: Adequate safeguards are assured that the applicant will carry on the business of a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs in a manner that allows pharmacists and pharmacy interns employed by the terminal distributor to practice pharmacy in a safe and effective manner.
- Rules [4729:5-5-02](#) and [4729:5-9-02.1](#) of the Administrative Code which states: The pharmacy shall be appropriately staffed to operate in a safe and effective manner pursuant to section 4729.55 of the Revised Code.

The PWAC began meeting in October 2021 to review potential options to improve working conditions in pharmacies with the goal of protecting the health and safety of Ohioans.

During the initial meetings, committee members were asked to provide actionable policy recommendations that would be reviewed by the Committee. For more information on this process visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PWACdraft](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PWACdraft).

As a result of the recommendations, the Board distributed a policy survey to Ohio pharmacists. The results of this survey can be accessed using the following links:

- [Pharmacist Survey Responses - PWAC Policy Options by Practice Type](#)
- [Pharmacist Survey Responses - PWAC Policy Options](#)

The Board is currently analyzing the results of the survey responses to develop policies that support Ohio's pharmacy personnel. For more information on the work of the PWAC, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PWAC](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PWAC).

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## Mandatory Electronic Prescribing of Schedule II Controlled Substances

On **September 23, 2022**, Ohio [House Bill 193](#) will go into effect. This law establishes the requirement that a prescriber issue an electronic prescription when prescribing a Schedule II controlled substance, but also allows for issuance of a written prescription in specified circumstances.

To assist licensees in complying with the provisions of this law, the Board developed a [frequently asked questions document](#), which can be found on the Board's website.

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## Job Posting: Compliance Specialist (Pharmacist) Union and Delaware Counties

The Board has recently posted an open position. The position can be viewed through MyOhio.gov by clicking on Careers and searching "Pharmacy Board." A link to the open position and online application can also be found below:

- [Pharmacy Board Compliance Specialist](#)
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