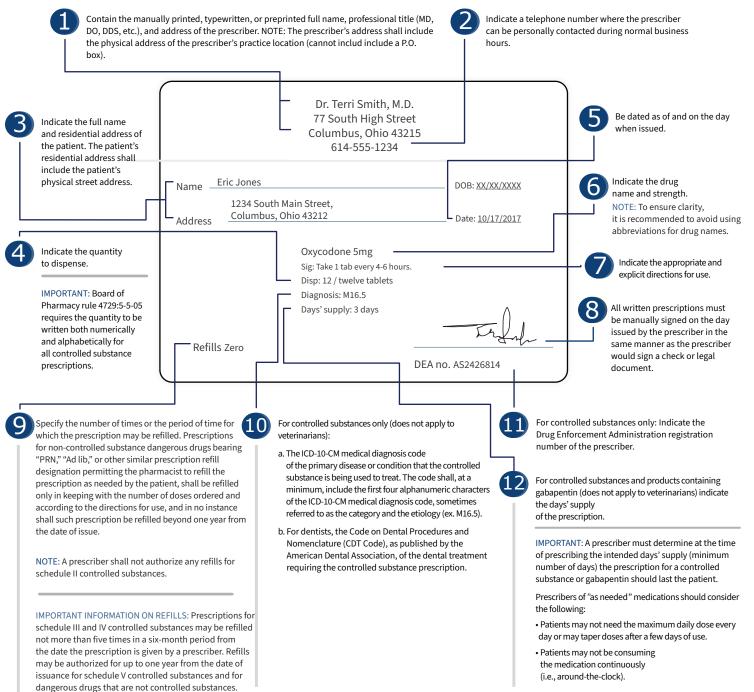
# Rx Issuing a Valid Prescription: What Every Prescriber Needs to Know

Prescribers are required to adhere to Board of Pharmacy rules for what constitutes a valid prescription. This document provides an overview of the prescription requirements set forth in rule 4729:5-5-15 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Compliance with this rule ensures that a pharmacist has all the information needed to dispense your patient's medication in a timely manner.

#### Written Prescriptions:

## Below is an example of a written prescription that complies with the Board of Pharmacy's prescription requirements:



## **Faxed Prescriptions**

Written prescriptions authorized and signed in ink by a prescriber may be transmitted by the prescriber or the prescriber's agent by a fax machine.

All faxed prescriptions must comply with the requirements for a written prescription and must also include header information identifying the origin of the fax.

In general, schedule II controlled substance prescriptions cannot be faxed. Exceptions to this are outlined in rule 4729:5-3-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

## **Electronic Prescribing**

Prescribers may electronically transmit prescriptions directly to the pharmacy. Except for a manual signature, the systems must be able to transmit all the required information as required on a written prescription.

It is the responsibility of the vendor and prescriber to ensure that all prescriptions include the required information listed in rule 4729:5-5-15 of the Ohio Administrative Code, including the transmission of the diagnosis code.

IMPORTANT: All controlled substance electronic prescriptions are covered by the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) regulations on E-Prescribing of Controlled Substances (21 CFR 1311). Ohio permits the electronic prescribing of all controlled substance prescriptions.

NOTE: The Board of Pharmacy will no longer be approving most electronic prescription systems. For more information on this, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/approval.

REMINDER: Generally, Ohio law requires a prescriber issue an electronic prescription when prescribing a Schedule II controlled substance. There are several exceptions to this requirement. For more information, visit: www.pharmacy. ohio.gov/c2.

## **Electronic to Computer-Generated Faxed Prescriptions**

No prescriptions may be transmitted by means of an electronic prescription transmission system that converts the prescription into a computer-generated fax or scanned image.

There are two exceptions where a computer-generate faxed prescription is still permissible:

- If there is a temporary outage by a Board-approved third-party intermediary or the receiving pharmacy, then a computer-generated faxed prescription will be accepted.
- A closed system "e to fax" prescription or order transmission system requires approval by the Board.

For more information on this change, including what constitutes a closed system, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/ approval.

## **Prescription Format**

Board of Pharmacy rule 4729:5-5-05 contains additional provisions on issuing a valid prescription, including:

- Written or faxed prescriptions may contain no more than three noncontrolled substance prescription orders per prescription.
- Written or faxed prescription may only contain one controlled substance prescription order per prescription.
- Preprinted prescriptions that contain multiple drug names or strength combinations (i.e. the prescriber must check a box) must comply with the following:

Cannot include controlled substances among the choices.

2 There is only one prescription order selected per form.

• Preprinted prescriptions for controlled substances must only contain one drug and strength combination printed on the form.

NOTE: There are some exceptions to the preprinted requirements for hospice patients. For a complete list of the exceptions, please refer to rule 4729:5-5-05 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

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Board of Pharmacy For more information, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov