



# SOMETIMES WE JUST HAVE TO **SAY NO.**

There are times when Ohio law and pharmacy board rules prohibit a pharmacist from dispensing a medication.

## **VALID** PRESCRIPTION

To be valid, a prescription must be...

- Issued for a legitimate medical purpose by a prescriber acting in the usual course of the prescriber's 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)].

## **NOT VALID** PRESCRIPTION

A prescription is not valid if...

- The prescription is too old. Prescriptions have time limits, even if there are still refills remaining. A pharmacist may not dispense a prescription that has expired. If refills were authorized, they are good for one year from the date the prescription was written on a non-controlled prescription, six months for a controlled substance [OAC 4729:5-5-15(B)].
- The prescription has not been filled for the first time within six months of the date issued. New prescriptions must be filled for the first time within six months [(OAC 4729:5-5-10(G))]

## **Your safety is important.**

Pharmacists are expected to use professional judgment when filling every prescription, which may mean they will decline filling a particular prescription. It may be too soon to refill or potentially unsafe to dispense a certain medication at a particular time.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call 1 (877) 275.6364 (TTY 1-888-636-4889) to find an addiction treatment provider near you.