



December E-News Update

New Regulations for Chronic and Subacute Opioid Prescriptions

Starting December 23, 2018 Ohio prescribers will need to follow new regulations when prescribing opioids for the treatment of long-term pain (lasting 12 weeks or more) and subacute pain (lasting between six and 12 weeks).

The rules focus on check points, not limits. The new rules establish the following check points to ensure appropriate prescribing:

- **50 MED:** Prescribers are required to re-evaluate the status of the patient's underlying condition causing pain, assess functioning, look for signs of prescription misuse, consider consultation with a specialist and obtain written informed consent from the patient.
- **80 MED:** Prescribers need to look for signs of opioid prescription misuse, consult with a specialist, obtain a written pain-management agreement and consider a prescription for naloxone, the life saving overdose antidote.
- **120 MED:** In order for prescribers to prescribe a dosage that exceeds 120 MED (unless the patient was already on a dosage of 120 MED or more prior to December 23, 2018) there must be a recommendation from a board certified pain medicine physician or board certified hospice and palliative care physician that is based upon a face-to-face visit and examination.

The rules do not apply to patients receiving medication for terminal conditions or those within a hospital or in-patient setting where they are closely monitored.

The full guidance from the State Medical Board of Ohio can be found [here](#).

It is important to note: at 80 MED a patient may receive a prescription for naloxone. While not required, it is recommended that the pharmacist provide counseling to the patient.

The Board has published a patient counseling brochure naloxone administration: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/naloxone.

Additionally, copies of the brochure are available free-of-charge from the Board by sending a request with to contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov. Please include in the request the name of requestor, pharmacy name, mailing address, phone number, and quantity requested.

2019 Rules Review Committee Application

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy's Rules Review Committee, composed of pharmacists from a diverse array of practice settings, is responsible for reviewing all rules prior to their legislatively mandated five-year review date. It also reviews and recommends changes proposed by the Board. The Committee is composed of twelve Ohio licensed pharmacists in good standing and typically meets three to four times per year in Columbus for half-day meetings.

To be considered for appointment to the committee, applications must be submitted by **January 8, 2019**. The application can be found [here](#).
