



OARRS Access by Fatality Review Committees

11/1/2021

Effective September 30, 2021, Ohio law authorizes the creation of two new county fatality review committees:

- **Drug Overdose Fatality Review Committee:** A county or regional committee established or appointed in accordance with [section 307.631 of the Revised Code](#) to review drug overdose or opioid-involved deaths occurring in the county or counties if covering more than one county.
- **Suicide Fatality Review Committee:** A county or regional committee established or appointed in accordance with [section 307.641 of the Revised Code](#) to review deaths by suicide occurring in the county or counties if covering more than one county.

The law (ORC [4729.80](#)) also permits the following individuals serving on these committees to access OARRS information regarding the decedents subject to the committee's review:

- Prescriber (MD/DO, APRN, PA, etc.)
- Pharmacist
- Coroner

To assist review committees in complying with Ohio law, the Board developed the following frequently asked questions starting on the next page. For questions not addressed or issues with your OARRS account, please contact: support@pharmacy.ohio.gov

Q1) I am a prescriber, coroner, or pharmacist serving on a drug overdose or suicide fatality review committee. Do I need to obtain a separate OARRS account?

No. Those authorized individuals should not sign up for a new account. Rather, they should use their existing account to obtain a decedent's OARRS report.

If you do not have an account, you can sign up for an account by visiting:
<https://www.ohiopmp.gov/Registration/Default.aspx>.

Q2) Can the information in a decedent's OARRS report be shared with committee members?

Yes. As a reminder, OARRS reports, by law, are confidential and cannot be shared outside of the committee. However, information obtained from OARRS that does not identify a person may be released in summary, statistical, or aggregate form as part of the committee's required reporting.

Q3) Are there other requirements for operation of a drug overdose or suicide fatality review committee?

Yes. The Ohio Department of Health is adopting rules governing the operation of the committees. For more information, please contact the [Ohio Department of Health's Violence and Injury Prevention Program](#) for more information.

Q4) Can I use prescriber, coroner, or pharmacist delegates to run the OARRS reports?

The law restricts the use of OARRS to those who are participating on the committee. If a delegate of a committee member is also serving on the committee, that delegate would be able to request a decedent's OARRS report as part of the standard delegate process.

Q5) Can prescribers, coroners, or pharmacists utilize OARRS as part of a child fatality review committee?

Prescribers and pharmacists serving on a child fatality review committee are **NOT** permitted to access OARRS as part of the committee's work. Access to OARRS is specific to the Suicide

and Drug Overdose Fatality Review committees. However, if a coroner is conducting an autopsy on a decedent who happens to be the subject of a child fatality review committee, that coroner may, as authorized under ORC [4729.80](#), access OARRS regardless of whether the decedent is the subject of a child-fatality review committee:

(A)(17) On receipt of a request from a coroner, deputy coroner, or coroner's delegate approved by the board, the board shall provide to the requestor information from the database relating to a deceased person about whom the coroner is conducting or has conducted an autopsy or investigation.

REMINDER: OARRS reports obtained by coroners participating in a child fatality review committee are confidential and cannot be shared outside of the committee. However, information obtained from OARRS that does not identify a person may be released in summary, statistical, or aggregate form as part of a child fatality review committee's required reporting.