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COMPLIANCE BULLETIN 98-002

TO: ALL OHIO LICENSED PHARMACISTS

DATE: OCTOBER 19, 1998

MEDICAL BOARD RULES REGARDING
UTILIZING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR INTRACTABLE PAIN TREATMENT
AND
UTILIZING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR SELF & FAMILY MEMBERS

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 11, 1998

The Medical Board of Ohio has adopted rules on physicians prescribing for patients with intractable pain. These rules are 4731-21-01, 4731-21-02, 4731-21-03, 4731-21-04, and 4731-21-05, and appear on the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy's Home Page (www.state.oh.us/pharmacy/). Pharmacists should keep in mind that prescriptions for intractable pain patients will usually be for large quantities. The validity of these prescriptions depends on the documentation and knowledge of the prescribing physician. Communication between the pharmacist and physician is essential to ensure quality care for the patient.

The State Medical Board has also adopted a new rule, 4731-11-08, which addresses physicians prescribing controlled substances for themselves and family members. Paragraph (A) of this rule will prohibit any physician from prescribing controlled substances for themselves under any condition. The physician may still purchase a Schedule V exempt substance from a pharmacy for personal use but must do so by signing the exempt log book in the same manner as the general public. Physicians may still purchase, at wholesale, controlled and non-controlled drugs for use in their office. This is by a wholesale sale only.

A physician may only prescribe controlled substances for family members in emergency situations and only for emergency quantities. "Family members" is defined in paragraph (C) of Rule 4731-11-08. This means a spouse, parent, child, sibling, or other individual in relation to whom the physician's personal or emotional involvement may render that physician unable to exercise detached professional judgment in reaching diagnostic or therapeutic decisions.

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