



State Board of Pharmacy Classifies Etizolam as a Schedule I Controlled Substance

Updated 2/14/2018

Effective February 19, 2018, [rule 4729-11-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code](#) classifies etizolam as a schedule I controlled substance depressant in Ohio.

Etizolam has a pharmacological profile similar to that of classical benzodiazepines. Despite being available as a prescription anxiolytic in Japan, India, and Italy, etizolam is not approved for medicinal purposes in the United States and Europe. Because it is not controlled nationally in the United States, etizolam is often promoted as a legal means of achieving the same effects as its scheduled benzodiazepine counterparts.

Actual abuse of etizolam has been documented in Europe, India, and in the United States. Observed trends prompted scheduling action in Alabama (schedule I), Arkansas (schedule I), Georgia (schedule IV), Kansas (schedule I), Mississippi (schedule I), and Virginia (schedule I).

The abuse of etizolam in conjunction with opioids presents a significant public health risk. Etizolam is 10 times more potent than diazepam and potentiates opioid respiratory depression.

A copy of the amended rule can be accessed here:

http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/pdfs/4729/0/11/4729-11-02_PH_FF_A_RU_20180206_1401.pdf

