



E-News Update December 2019

2020 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 one to two times per year in Columbus for half-day meetings.

To be considered for appointment to the committee, applications must be submitted by January 21, 2020. The application can be found [here](#).

Reminder: Pharmacy Technician Renewal

Registered pharmacy technician renewal will begin in January 2020. As part of the renewal process, a registered pharmacy technician will be required to complete a total of **ten contact hours** (1.0 CEUs) of continuing pharmacy education during the 24 months preceding the expiration date of a registered technician's registration (i.e. April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020).

It's important that registered pharmacy technicians maintain their registration and complete their required continuing education. By failing to renew a registration, both the registered pharmacy technician and the pharmacy may face administrative action if the employee continues to practice as a technician. The Board will be conducting audits of registered pharmacy technicians to determine if continuing education requirements have been met. Certificates and other documented evidence of participation only need to be submitted to the Board when requested.

All registered pharmacy technicians must obtain a free CPE monitor account from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. This account will be used to report and monitor the successful completion of ACPE approved continuing pharmacy education.

The Board has also created a guidance document that can be found by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/techCE

Starting in January 2020, the Board will begin verifying certified technicians have a valid ExCPT or PTCB certification. A certified technician must meet the continuing education requirements for their pharmacy technician certification (ExCPT or PTCB). Any certified technician who holds a valid certification is not required to complete the ten contact hours that is required for a registered pharmacy technician. Failure to maintain an ExCPT or PTCB certification may result in disciplinary action by the Board. Therefore, all Ohio certified technicians should make sure they have valid certifications prior to January 2020. If a certified pharmacy technician no longer wishes to maintain their ExCPT or PTCB certification, the applicant will be required to re-apply as a registered pharmacy technician.

Reminder: Important Notice to All Licensees Regarding Extortion Scam

Licensees should be on alert for a scam that has been targeting Ohio healthcare providers.

Scammers have been calling and faxing prescribers and pharmacists saying they are being investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and their DEA registration will be revoked or suspended or they will be arrested if they do not agree to pay a fine immediately via phone or fax.

Additionally, individuals posing as Board of Pharmacy or State Medical Board agents are also contacting healthcare providers by phone and/or fax in an attempt to obtain payment to resolve a disciplinary matter.

Please be aware that if the Board of Pharmacy or State Medical Board are conducting an investigation and that individual faces action against their license, they will receive an official notice of opportunity for a hearing either via certified mail or by personal service.

If you are unsure of whether the individual claiming to be a Board of Pharmacy agent or inspector is legitimate, you may call the Board office at 614-466-4143 and ask to speak to the Compliance and Enforcement Department.

The DEA is also aware of the extortion scam and has published more information on its website, including how to notify the DEA:
https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/pressreleases/extortion_scam.htm

Non-Pharmacy Terminal Distributor Rules Effective March 1, 2020

Effective March 1, 2020, the following terminal distributor rule chapters go into effect:

- Pain Management Clinics - 4729:5-11
- First Aid Departments - 4729:5-13
- Animal Shelters - 4729:5-15
- Laboratories - 4729:5-16
- Office-Based Opioid Treatment Facilities - 4729:5-18
- Clinics and Prescriber Offices - 4729:5-19
- Veterinary Clinics - 4729:5-20
- Opioid Treatment Programs - 4729:5-21
- Non-limited Facilities - 4729:5-22
- Limited Facilities - 4729:5-23

REMINDER: The above rule chapters **do not apply** to pharmacies, EMS agencies, drug distributors (wholesalers, manufacturers, etc.), and institutional facilities.

To assist licensees in complying with the new rule chapters, the Board recently published inspection guides for each license type. The inspection guides align with internal guidance used by Board inspectors and allow licensee to conduct self-inspections to ensure compliance.

Guides also include links to the new rule chapters, important definitions, and reminders of when a licensee is required to submit notification or additional information to the Board.

The guides are available on the [terminal distributor licensing page](#) and can also be accessed using the short links below:

- Pain Management Clinics – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PMCinspect
- First Aid Departments – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/FAinspect
- Animal Shelters – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/ASinspect
- Laboratories – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/LABinspect
- Office-Based Opioid Treatment Facilities – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OBOTinspect
- Clinics and Prescriber Offices – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CPOinspect
- Veterinary Clinics – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/VETinspect
- Opioid Treatment Programs – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OTPinspect
- Non-limited Facilities – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NLFinspect
- Limited Facilities – www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/LFinspect

Additional guides for other license types (pharmacies, EMS, institutional, etc.) will be published by early next year.
