E-News Update December 2021

Remote Order/Prescription Entry Rules for Pharmacy Personnel Now in Effect

On November 30, 2021, the following rules went into effect for institutional and outpatient pharmacies:

- Rule 4729:5-5-20 - Remote Outpatient Prescription Processing.

- Rule 4729:5-5-25 - Remote Prescription Entry - Technician.

- Rule 4729:5-9-02.14 - Remote Medication Order Processing.

- Rule 4729:5-9-02.15 - Remote Order Entry - Technician.

Please be advised that these rules replace a COVID-19 waiver that authorized remote order/prescription entry by pharmacy personnel. The Board's COVID-19 materials will be updated by Monday to reflect this change.

Outpatient Pharmacy Inspection Guide Updated to Reflect New Policy on Animal Prescriptions

The Board recently updated its Outpatient Pharmacy Inspection Guide to include a new policy regarding recordkeeping for the dispensing animal prescriptions. For the patient's date of birth, Board policy now states:

For animal prescriptions, the outpatient pharmacy must use the best estimate for the patient's date of birth, as provided by the animal's owner.

Rules for Stakeholder Feedback - Pharmacist Drug Utilization Review (Comments Due: 12/30/21)

Gabapentin, brand name Neurontin, is an anticonvulsant used to treat seizures and neuropathic pain. Ohio data indicates that gabapentin may be subject to abuse and overutilization within the healthcare system.

To ensure pharmacists can properly identify the misuse of gabapentin, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is proposing amendments to OAC 4729:5-5-08.

For additional information on this rule change, including how to submit comments, **click here**.

REMINDER: Board Extends Outpatient Pharmacy Positive Identification Requirements to 6/30/2022

To address reported technological delays, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is extending the following requirement until June 30, 2022 (formerly 12/1/2021):

Effective 6/30/2022, all pharmacy record keeping systems must capture the positive identification of prescription information entered into the pharmacy's record keeping system. This requires positive identification of pharmacists, interns and technicians that are entering prescription information into a pharmacy's record keeping system. [OAC 4729:5-5-04 (A)(1)]

The Board updated its outpatient pharmacy inspection guide to reflect this extension (see page 30).

To access the outpatient pharmacy inspection guide visit: **www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OPinspect**

REMINDER: Institutional Pharmacy and Facility Rules - Effective Date Extended to 2/1/2022

To allow for additional time for implementation of the new institutional pharmacy and facility rules, the effective date of the new rule chapter (OAC 4729:5-9) has been extended from December 1, 2021 to February 1, 2022.

The Board added several clarifications to the institutional guide based upon feedback received during the comment period. Those changes can be reviewed by visiting the update history section at the end of the guide.

To access the institutional pharmacy and facility inspection guide visit: **www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/IPFinspect**

Flu Communications Toolkits for Healthcare Providers

This week (December 5-11) is National Influenza Vaccination Week, and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) wants to share with you flu communications toolkits for healthcare providers to use in promoting flu vaccination for their patients 6 months and older during the 2021 – 2022 flu season.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a NIVW digital toolkit featuring social media language and graphics, sample newsletter language, and printable resources.

- ODH offers a Flu Communications Toolkit that offers social media language and graphics and sample newsletter language around the importance of flu shots, in addition to flu and COVID-19 shots as the best defense.

Healthcare providers can monitor flu activity in Ohio, including county-level data, on the ODH Ohio Flu Activity webpage.

FDA, CDC Authorize Pfizer Booster Doses for 16- and 17-year-olds

On Thursday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amended the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine to extend booster dose eligibility to fully vaccinated people ages 16-17. Also Thursday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a recommendation for booster dose use for this age group. This is an important step toward strengthening protection against COVID-19 for teens ages 16 and 17.

COVID-19 vaccine providers in Ohio can immediately begin offering booster doses to 16- and 17-year-olds **at least six months** following completion of their primary vaccination series.

Booster doses are now recommended for everyone age 16 and older. People who received the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get a booster at least six months after the primary vaccination series. People who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine should get a booster at least two months after the initial dose.

Mix-and-match booster doses— in which fully vaccinated people can choose any of the three U.S. approved COVID-19 vaccines for their booster— is an option only for adults 18 and older. **Because the Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine authorized for any person younger than 18, people age 16 or 17 can only receive a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine.**

At this time, booster doses are not authorized for any children younger than age 16.

RESOURCES:
- **UPDATED** - Guidance for Ohio Vaccine Providers for Administering Booster Doses (Age 16 and older)

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** Booster Shots Eligibility and FAQs
- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers
- Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers
- Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers