



**STATE OF
OHIO**
BOARD OF PHARMACY



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**Board of Pharmacy and Kroger Partnership Aimed at Stopping Prescription Drug Abuse
*Kroger Pharmacies in Ohio Can Now Instantly Access the State's Prescription Monitoring Program***

COLUMBUS – Columbus, Ohio (Franklin County) – Kroger Pharmacies across Ohio can now instantly review a patient's controlled substance use through the State's Prescription Monitoring Program, known as the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). The integration project represents a two year partnership between the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and Kroger in an effort to combat Ohio's drug overdose epidemic.

"Use of OARRS is an essential tool for pharmacists to avoid potentially life-threatening drug interactions as well as to identify individuals fraudulently obtaining controlled substances from multiple health care providers, a practice commonly referred to as doctor shopping", says State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt, Esq. "Integration allows busy pharmacists the ability to quickly review patient data within their workflow to prevent the abuse and misuse of controlled substance medications."

Kroger's Manager of Pharmacy Regulatory Compliance and Government Relations, Jeff Loesch, PharmD. adds, "Kroger is excited to partner with the Ohio Board of Pharmacy on this initiative designed to combat the prescription drug abuse epidemic. This solution gives our pharmacists the tools they need to ensure the safe and appropriate dispensing of controlled substances and enhances our compliance with DEA regulations concerning pharmacists' corresponding responsibility. We see this as a win for patients and pharmacists alike."

Established in 2006, OARRS is a statewide database that collects information on all prescriptions for controlled substances that are dispensed by pharmacies or furnished by prescribers in Ohio. OARRS data is available to prescribers when they treat patients, pharmacists when presented with prescriptions from patients and law enforcement officers only during active investigations.

The project was funded by the Board through a federal grant provided by the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

For more information on OARRS, please visit: www.oarrs.pharmacy.ohio.gov

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