SOMETIMES WE JUST HAVE TO SAY NO.

There are times when the laws and pharmacy board rules prohibit a pharmacist from dispensing a medication.

VALID PRESCRIPTION
To be valid, a prescription must be...

- Issued for a legitimate medical purpose by a prescriber acting in the usual course of his/her practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing is upon the prescriber; however, a corresponding responsibility also rests with the pharmacist who dispenses the prescription. State and federal regulations require pharmacists to use professional judgment to determine the legitimacy of a prescription and whether the prescription is in the best interest of the patient. A pharmacist is not required to dispense a prescription of doubtful, questionable, or suspicious origin or if a prescription poses a risk to the health of the patient. (OAC 4729-5-20(G), 4729-5-30(A) & 4729-5-21(A))

NOT VALID PRESCRIPTION
A prescription is not valid if...

- The prescription is too old. Prescriptions have time limits, even if there are still refills remaining. A pharmacist may not dispense a prescription that has expired. If refills were authorized, they are good for one year from the date the prescription was written on a non-controlled prescription, six months for a controlled substance. (OAC 4729-5-30(B)(9-11)

- The prescription has not been filled for the first time within six months of the date issued. New prescriptions must be filled for the first time within six months. (OAC 4729-5-21(G))

Your safety is important.
Pharmacists are expected to use professional judgment when filling every prescription, which may mean they will decline filling a particular prescription. It may be too soon to refill or potentially unsafe to dispense a certain medication at a particular time.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call 1(877) 275.6364 to find an addiction services provider near you.