Ohio Board of Pharmacy

SOMETIMES WE JUST HAVE TO SAY NO.

There are times when Ohio law and 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 the prescriber's professional practice, meaning that the prescriber is writing for a condition that is within their scope of practice.

While the responsibility for the proper prescribing is upon the prescriber, the pharmacist does have a corresponding responsibility to ensure the legitimacy of a prescription prior to dispensing the medication. For example, a cough medication prescribed by a podiatrist, or unusual dosage or directions may raise some red flags as to whether or not the prescription is valid.

In situations where the pharmacist has questions or concerns, they should exercise professional judgement, including conversing with the prescriber. Ultimately, the pharmacist can refuse a prescription if they feel it is in the patient's best interest.

INVALID PRESCRIPTION

Any prescription that is missing the required information set in the OAC 4729:5-5-15 can be cause for a pharmacist to deny filling a prescription. These include, but are not limited to, lack of signature, missing information about the prescriber and/or patient, and lack of strength/directions/quantity.

Prescriptions are not valid indefinitely. Prescriptions must be filled within 6 months of the date they are written, unless it is a prescription for an opioid prescription, which needs to be filled within 14 days of the date written per ORC 4729.46 unless certain criteria are met.

If refills are authorized, they may be filled within one year from the date the prescription was written, or within six months from the date written for controlled substances. Some controlled substances (CII) are not permitted to have refills.

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.

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE Ohio

988 offers 24/7 judgment-free support for mental health, substance use, and more. Text, call, or chat 988.