



For Immediate Release

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Board of Pharmacy Announces Expanded Access to Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for Ohio Drug Courts
New Tool Helps Keep Drug Court Participants on Road to Recovery

November 7, 2017 – Columbus, Ohio – Ohio courts overseeing individuals struggling with drug addiction now have access to an additional tool to ensure they comply with court ordered treatment. The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy announced that drug court programs have access to the state’s prescription drug monitoring program, known as the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), to provide judges and court personnel with critical information regarding a participant’s use of controlled substance medications.

“The use of OARRS by Ohio drug courts gives judges and staff additional monitoring capability that contributes to their effectiveness in helping participants change their behavior,” said State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt.

Data from the state’s prescription drug monitoring program is an invaluable resource for prescribers, pharmacists, and law enforcement. For courts in Ohio to take full advantage of this tool, the Board of Pharmacy worked with Governor John Kasich, the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Ohio General Assembly to provide access through the most recent state budget. Access to OARRS is granted to drug courts certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio and other specialized dockets treating individuals for substance use disorders such as those relating to mental health, veterans and human trafficking.

“Judges who preside over specialized dockets will now have an additional means of verifying that those in court ordered treatment are complying with treatment as they navigate the difficult road to recovery,” said Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor.

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. To assist judges and court personnel with using the system, the Board of Pharmacy has developed a training guide that can be accessed by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/drugcourt.

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