



STATE OF OHIO BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

From the Director's Desk

Dear Ohio Pharmacists,

On November 29, 2023, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, in partnership with Bamboo Health, implemented new NarxCare functionality within the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System.

Within this new functionality is an updated version of the Overdose Risk Score. It includes both an unintentional overdose risk scoring model and a presentation of the key contributing factors to the model's calculation of the likelihood of an unintentional overdose death.

Research indicates that contributing factors to unintentional overdose death have evolved since launching the initial Overdose Risk Score. Because of these changes, the new model separates the morphine milligram equivalent from medications for opioid use disorder. It also focuses on dispensations within the last 365 days, as opposed to a longer period.

In addition, a new tile places all scores and the additional risk indicators in one location. This ensures that the controlled substance-specific exposure scores and overdose risk score model are always displayed together. The tile communicates if the score is below average, average, or above average with a graphical display.

These updated features are now available to users accessing patient reports via PMP AWARxE (web portal) and PMP Gateway

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(integration). For more information about NarxCare and the new score tile, please visit www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NarxScore.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for all that you do to help keep Ohioans safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Schierholt, Esq
Executive Director
State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy

Expedited Onboarding of Pharmacy Technician Trainees – Expired on January 1, 2024

Effective January 1, 2024, the resolution authorizing the expedited onboarding of pharmacy technician trainees has expired. The resolution, authorized during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowed the Board's Licensing department to grant trainee applicants conditional approval to begin working as a pharmacy technician trainee while they completed the application requirements (eg, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal records checks).

Since January 1, 2024, the Board no longer issues conditional approval statuses.

Therefore, pharmacy technician trainees must have all application requirements submitted with their application to the Board to receive their active registration.

For more information about this change, please review this guidance document: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/TraineeExpire.

New Rule Permits Pharmacist Verification of Prescriber Compounded Medications

Effective November 16, 2023, [rule 4729:7-3-07](#) authorizes a prescriber to “delegate a pharmacist to perform medication validation (‘final check’) of a finished compounded drug preparation prior to it being administered to a patient.”

DEA Releases Updated Guidance on the Medication Access and Training Expansion Act

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 enacted a new one-time, eight-hour training requirement for all Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-registered practitioners, except veterinarians, on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders.

As of June 27, 2023, all DEA-registered and new medical practitioners are required to attest to completion of the training when renewing or completing an initial registration.

Reminder: Board Offering Free Fentanyl Test Strips to All Ohio Licensees

In recognition of Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, 2023, the Board is partnering with the Office of Governor Mike DeWine, RecoveryOhio, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Ohio Department of Health to offer no-cost fentanyl test strips to all Ohio pharmacies.

To help save lives, the Board encourages you to make these important tools available to your patients. The Board is offering each licensee up to two boxes of strips per order (100 strips per box). Strips will be available while supplies last and may be reordered by the same location if you are running low. Additionally, you may also request copies of the Board's educational handouts (100 per pack).

Orders must be placed online using the following link: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/FTSorder.

Due to grant funding restrictions, the Board is only able to offer strips to licensees located in the state of Ohio.

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy News is published by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation® (NABPF®) to promote compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of NABPF or the Board unless expressly so stated.

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