



Approval of Electronic Prescription Transmission Systems & Computerized Prescriber Order Entry Systems

Updated 11/7/2019

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has updated its policy regarding the approval of electronic prescription transmission systems (EPTS) & computerized prescriber order entry systems (CPOE) to coincide with the implementation of revisions to [rule 4729-5-30](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code (effective 12.29.2017).

Starting October 16, 2017, the official policy requires Board approval for the following systems:

1. Systems used to transmit inpatient orders (commonly referred to as CPOE) at institutional facilities as defined in [rule 4729-17-01](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code. This includes compliance with the Board's positive identification requirements.
2. Systems for the transmission of non-controlled prescriptions or orders that converts the prescription or order into a computer-generated fax or scanned image if transmitted within a closed system. A closed system includes a system whereby prescription information is transmitted directly between:
 - (i) Any division, subsidiary, parent or affiliated or related company under common ownership and control.
 - (ii) One or more contracted entities. Contracted means having a written agreement (to include business associate agreements) between one or more prescribers and a pharmacy and shall not include a third-party intermediary unless otherwise approved by the board.
 - (iii) Any other entities as approved by the board.

IMPORTANT: Effective October 16, 2017, only the systems that meet the above criteria will be subject to Board approval.

NOTE: Effective December 29, 2017, no prescriptions may be transmitted by means of an electronic prescription transmission system or computerized prescriber order entry system that converts the prescription or order into a computer-generated fax or scanned image ([rule 4729-5-30](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code).

This prohibition does not apply to the following:

1. A board approved third-party intermediary* if the conversion is necessitated by a temporary telecommunication outage of the intermediary or receiving pharmacy; or



2. *A board approved system for the transmission of non-controlled prescriptions that converts the prescription into a computer-generated fax or scanned image if transmitted within a closed system.*

***The following third-party intermediaries have been approved by the Board:**

1. **Surescripts (Approved 12/11/2017)**
2. **eRx Network (Approved 2/7/2018)**
3. **WENO Exchange (Approved 11/6/2019)**

For more information on this policy change, please review the following frequently asked questions. If you need any additional information, please contact the Board by email at erx@pharmacy.ohio.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1) The Board of Pharmacy's updated rule on approval required for CPOE systems applies to "institutional facilities." What type of facilities are covered by this rule?

Rule [4729-17-01](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code defines an institutional facility as follows:

"Institutional facility" means a hospital as defined in section [3727.01](#) of the Revised Code, or a facility licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy and the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, or the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services at which medical care is provided on site and a medical record documenting episodes of care, including medications ordered and administered, is maintained, including, the following:

- (1) Convalescent homes;
- (2) Developmental facilities;
- (3) Long term care facilities;
- (4) Nursing homes;
- (5) Psychiatric facilities;
- (6) Rehabilitation facilities;
- (7) Developmental disability facilities;
- (8) Level III sub-acute detoxification facilities certified by the Ohio department of mental health and addiction services;
- (9) State or local correctional facilities, as defined in section [5163.45](#) of the Revised Code;
- (10) Any other facility as determined by the board.

Q2) Will EPTS systems that generate outpatient prescriptions in an institutional facility require approval by the Board of Pharmacy?

No. Systems that transmit outpatient prescriptions are not required to be approved by the Board. All controlled substance electronic prescriptions are covered by the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) regulations on E-Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS), including acceptable forms of two-factor authentication.

IMPORTANT: While the Board will no longer approve systems for the transmission of outpatient prescriptions, it is a requirement of the Medical, Nursing and Dental Boards that, effective December 29, 2017, every prescriber includes the first four alphanumeric characters (ex. M16.5) of the diagnosis code (ICD-10) or the full procedure code (Current Dental Terminology - CDT) on all opioid prescriptions.

NOTE: The requirement for the ICD-10 or CDT code for all controlled substances goes into effect on June 1, 2018.

Q3) What systems will the Board of Pharmacy be reviewing and approving?

The Board of Pharmacy will *ONLY* be reviewing and approving systems that are used to transmit prescriptions internally (i.e. inpatient prescriptions) within an institutional facility and all systems that transmit prescriptions by converting the prescription into a computer-generated fax or scanned image (commonly referred to as "e to fax") for transmission within a closed system. The Board of Pharmacy will be specifically reviewing each system to ensure it meets the positive ID requirements defined in rule 4729-5-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Q4) What new restrictions will be placed on "e to fax" prescription transmission systems?

Except as outlined in the next paragraph, prescribers will not be permitted to transmit prescriptions by computer-generated fax (this includes both EPTS and CPOE systems). However, the prescriber can print out the prescription, sign it with a manual wet-ink signature, and fax the prescription or order to the pharmacy. The fax of the prescription must include header information identifying the origin of the fax.

There are two exceptions to restrictions on "e to fax" prescription transmission systems:

- 1) If there is a temporary outage by a Board-approved third-party intermediary or the receiving pharmacy, then a computer-generated faxed prescription will be accepted. **NOTE: An updated list of third-party intermediaries will be added to this document in early December.**
- 2) An "e to fax" prescription transmission system can also be used for prescriptions or orders transmitted as part of a closed system. A closed-system "e to fax" prescription or order transmission system requires approval by the Board.

Q5) Will an e-prescribing system used by ambulatory providers (i.e. ambulatory surgical centers, hospital outpatient departments, and the offices of physicians and other health professionals) to electronically transmit controlled substances (EPCS) be reviewed and approved by the Board?

No. It should be noted that while the Board will not review and approve EPCS systems, it is a requirement of the Medical, Nursing and Dental Boards that, effective December 29, 2017, every prescriber includes the first four alphanumeric characters (ex. M16.5) of the diagnosis code (ICD-10) or the full procedure code (Current Dental Terminology - CDT) on all opioid prescriptions.

NOTE: The requirement for the ICD-10 or CDT code for all controlled substances goes into effect on June 1, 2018.

In addition, it is the responsibility of the vendor and prescriber to ensure that all prescriptions include the required information listed in rule 4729-5-30 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Q6) Will systems used by the ambulatory providers (i.e. ambulatory surgical centers, hospital outpatient departments, and the offices of physicians and other health professionals) to electronically transmit non-controlled substances to outpatient pharmacies (eRx) be reviewed and approved by the Board?

No. Systems that are used to electronically transmit non-controlled substance outpatient prescriptions will not be reviewed or approved by the Board. It is the responsibility of the vendor and prescriber to ensure that all prescriptions include the required information listed in rule 4729-5-30 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Q7) Should an institutional facility plan on scheduling a review with the Board of Pharmacy even if the facility's CPOE system has been reviewed before?

No. However, the Board strongly recommends institutional facilities that have made recent upgrades or changes to their previously approved systems and have not consulted a Board of Pharmacy Compliance Specialist to contact the Board to review and re-approve the CPOE/EHR system. This will ensure that changes do not impact a facility's compliance with Board of Pharmacy regulations.

Q8) How can the institutional facility schedule a review of its CPOE/EHR system?

The facility should contact the Board of Pharmacy at erx@pharmacy.ohio.gov to schedule a review.

Q9) Where can I go to get answers to other questions about the Board of Pharmacy review/approval process?

For other questions, you may contact the Board at the following email address:
erx@pharmacy.ohio.gov.