



An Introduction for Law Enforcement

About the Ohio Board of Pharmacy

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy was established by the General Assembly in May of 1884 and consists of nine members, eight pharmacists and one member of the public, who are appointed by the Governor for terms of four years. The Board currently has a staff of ninety-nine full-time employees, including 11 pharmacists, who are responsible for carrying out day-to-day operations. The duties of the Board have grown over the years and encompass the enforcement of the following chapters of the Ohio Revised Code:

2925. – Criminal Drug Laws

3715. – Pure Food and Drug Law

3719. – Controlled Substance Act

4729. – Pharmacy Practice Act & Dangerous Drug Distribution Act

4752. – Home Medical Equipment Services Providers



In enforcing these chapters, the Board licenses and regulates more than 95,000 professionals, including pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians, and sites where drugs and home medical equipment are purchased and stored prior to delivery to a patient. The sites licensed by the Board include, but are not limited to, retail pharmacies, home medical equipment services providers, hospitals, drug wholesalers, prescriber offices, drug manufacturers, veterinary clinics, nursing homes, prisons and jails, emergency medical service organizations, and pain management clinics.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy is charged with preventing, detecting, and investigating the diversion of dangerous drugs, including controlled substances. The Board investigates and presents evidence of violations of drug laws by any person and refers them for criminal prosecution and/or administrative action. In these efforts, the Board works collaboratively with other state prescriber boards and law enforcement to conduct investigations of healthcare professionals (pharmacists, physicians, dentists, nurses, etc.) who may be in violation of Ohio law.

Have a Question or Need Assistance with an Investigation?

If you are a law enforcement agency and need further assistance on a matter relating to the legal distribution of prescription drugs or any matter that is pharmacy-related (e.g., employee theft, burglary, counterfeit medications, etc.), please call the Board office at **614-466-4143** and ask to speak with the Compliance Department or send us an email to: compliance@pharmacy.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy can assist state and local law enforcement agencies with the following:



Pharmaceutical Drug Investigations

The Board assists law enforcement agencies with active investigations involving pharmaceutical drugs. This can include help in identifying diverted medications, investigations of healthcare professionals, pharmacy robberies or thefts, criminal intelligence on pharmaceutical-related crimes, counterfeit medication interdiction and seizure, and other assistance as needed.



Controlled Substance Reference Table & Bulk Amounts

The Board compiles a regularly updated Controlled Substances Reference Table to assist law enforcement in determining whether or not a drug is a controlled substance. The table also provides the number of the finished dosage units that constitutes bulk amount according to ORC 2925.01(D). The table can be accessed by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/LE.



Controlled Substance Scheduling

The Board is charged with maintaining Ohio's controlled substance schedules (OAC 4729:9). Under this authority, it can do either of the following: **1)** Add a previously unscheduled compound to any schedule; and **2)** Transfer a compound from one schedule to another, provided the transfer does not provide less stringent control of the compound than is provided under federal law.



OARRS Criminal Investigative Unit (CIU)

The OARRS CIU is a team of Board of Pharmacy agents who use prescription data from the system to identify and investigate Ohio healthcare providers for violations of Ohio law (e.g., drug trafficking, theft of drugs, illegal sales of controlled substances, insurance fraud, etc.). These agents work closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement on these complex investigations.



OARRS Early Intervention Unit (EIU)

The OARRS EIU uses prescription data from the system to identify individuals who may have a substance use disorder (ex. a person who may be engaged in doctor shopping) and engage those individuals to limit their overutilization of the healthcare system and/or connect them with appropriate drug treatment or other support services.



**Board of
Pharmacy**

Ohio Automated Rx
Reporting System

OARRS Access for Law Enforcement

Established in 2006, OARRS collects information on all outpatient prescriptions for controlled substances (and two non-controlled drugs, gabapentin and naltrexone) dispensed by Ohio-licensed pharmacies & medical marijuana dispensaries and personally furnished by licensed prescribers in Ohio. Drug wholesalers are also required to submit information on all controlled substances sold to an Ohio licensed pharmacy or prescriber. The data is reported every 24 hours (except wholesalers who report monthly) and is maintained in a secure database.

Law enforcement may access OARRS data for a person who is the subject of an active investigation of a drug abuse offense (ORC 2925.01) being conducted by the officer's employing government entity. To learn more about OARRS and how to sign up for an account, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OARRS