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## E-News September 2022

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### **Required OARRS Review for Gabapentin Prescriptions - Effective 11/15/22**

Effective November 15, 2022, OAC 4729:5-5-08 will be amended to require pharmacists to check a patient's OARRS report prior to dispensing medications containing gabapentin. This rule is intended to address an increase in the overutilization of gabapentin as reported by OARRS and Board staff. For example, 24.9% (159,163) of Ohio patients in 2020 received gabapentin from multiple prescribers. [Click here to view the amendments to the rule.](#)

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### **National Prescription Drug Take Back Day - October 29, 2022**

The Next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will take place on **October 29, 2022 from 10am to 2pm.**

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. For more information, please visit: [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/).

The Board has also published a number of resources regarding the disposal of drugs in Ohio. The resources can be found on the Board's website or by following this link: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/DrugDisposalResources](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/DrugDisposalResources).

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### **Immunization Administration by Pharmacy Technicians**

In 2021, the Board created the Pharmacist Workload Advisory Committee (PWAC). The PWAC began meeting in October 2021 to review potential options to improve working conditions in pharmacies with the goal of protecting the health and safety of Ohioans.

During the initial meetings, committee members were asked to provide actionable policy recommendations that would be reviewed by the Committee. One of the policy recommendations was to allow pharmacy technicians to administer immunizations.

As a result of the recommendation, during the September Board meeting, the Board proposed the following rule:

- **Rule 4729:3-3-06 – Immunization administration.**

Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted until October 14, 2022. [Click here to view the rule text.](#)

For more information on the work of the PWAC, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PWAC](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PWAC).

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### **Important Information Regarding The Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) - Provider Authorization**

Due to the anticipated high volume of inquiries, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has decided to postpone the go-live date of provider authorization. Communications will be sent

when a new enablement date has been determined.

**As a reminder, all OARRS users must register for an account as soon as possible to avoid losing access to the system.**

Please log into your OARRS account to verify your information is up to date by visiting: <https://ohio.pmpaware.net/>.

If you do not have an OARRS account, you can register by visiting: <https://ohio.pmpaware.net/identities/new>.

If you have questions or need any additional assistance, please contact: [pdmpintegrations@bamboohealth.com](mailto:pdmpintegrations@bamboohealth.com).

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## **Certified Pharmacy Technician Renewal - Closing Soon**

Certified pharmacy technician renewal closes on **Friday, September 30, 2022**. As part of the renewal process, and as a condition of maintaining a valid Ohio registration, a certified pharmacy technician is required to maintain a pharmacy technician certification (ExCPT or PTCB).

A certified technician is **not** required to complete the ten contact hours of continuing education that is required for registered pharmacy technicians. The continuing education reported to the certification body (PTCB or NHA for ExCPT) fulfills a certified technician's continuing education obligation.

**Failure to maintain an ExCPT or PTCB certification may result in disciplinary action by the Board. Therefore, all Ohio certified technicians should make sure they have valid certifications before renewing their registration.**

For more information, please visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CT22](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CT22).

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## **Ohio Pharmacy Advocacy Symposium - October 14, 2022**

This year's event will explore strategies for advocating across the spectrum of professional pharmacy practice, from advocacy for self to patient advocacy to facilitating change in your practice, your institution and our profession. Speakers include local, state and national leaders in health care and advocacy. One hour of ACPE-accredited Medication Safety Continuing Pharmacist Education will be provided. All health care professionals, students and trainees are invited to participate in this event. For more information, visit: <https://pharmacy.osu.edu/ohio-pharmacy-advocacy-symposium>

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