



# Board of Pharmacy

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## e-News December 2024

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### Mobile Clinic and Medication Unit Satellite License Form Launches Tomorrow

**OAC 4729:5-3-23**, going into effect January 15, 2025, authorizes the following terminal distributors of dangerous drugs to operate a mobile clinic or medication unit:

1. A nonprofit organization, corporation, or association as defined in the Ohio Revised Code; or
2. A for-profit entity for the purpose of providing services to an individual needing treatment for a substance use disorder, a mental health condition, and any related medical issue.

To operate a mobile clinic or medication unit, a licensed terminal distributor of dangerous drugs is required to register for a no-cost, satellite license affiliated with the licensee using the form that can be found at [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/mobile](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/mobile). Terminal distributors can begin submitting applications starting tomorrow, December 20, 2024.

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### Terminal Renewal Opens 1/30/2025

The renewal period for terminal distributor licenses will open on **Thursday, January 30, 2025**. All active terminal distributor licenses with an expiration date of March 31, 2025 will need to file a renewal application and submit the required renewal fee by the expiration date. The renewal application cannot be accessed prior to that date. More information will be sent to licensees in January.

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### Occasional Sales or Transfers of Controlled Substances and Gabapentin Must Be Reported to OARRS

Any licensee engaged in the transfer, including intracompany transfers, or sale of controlled substances or gabapentin must report those transactions to OARRS. Any transfer of a controlled substance or gabapentin between two different TDDD license numbers (or DEA registrations) must be reported as a wholesale transaction, even if just one tablet. Wholesale quantities are reported by the number of packages, not the number of tablets. Fractional quantities are allowed. For example, you sell 1 bottle of 100 tablets of drug X. You would report "1" as the quantity. If you sell 50 tablets of the bottle of 100, you would report quantity of 0.5. **REMINDER:** Transfers or sales between wholesalers are not required to be reported to OARRS.

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# REMINDER: Continuous Quality Improvement Rules Effective 3/1/2025

On March 1, 2025, the following rules will go into effect:

- Rule [4729:5-3-22](#) of the Administrative Code requires any pharmacy licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to implement a continuous quality improvement program for pharmacy services. For more information on the requirements of this rule, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PharmacyCQI](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PharmacyCQI)
- Rule [4729:5-4-02](#) of the Administrative Code requires pharmacies licensed as terminal distributors of dangerous drugs to submit certain information to the Board. This includes the reporting of some dispensing errors. For more information on the requirements of this rule, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PharmacyReport](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PharmacyReport)

To coincide with the new rules listed above, the Board is also implementing new duty to report rules for pharmacy personnel effective March 1, 2025:

- Rule [4729:1-4-02](#) of the Administrative Code is a new version of the pharmacist duty to report rule. This rule removes the requirement that pharmacists report errors in dispensing to the Board, as this responsibility will fall under the pharmacy duty to report rule (OAC [4729:5-4-02](#)). For more information on the new version of this rule, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PharmReportNew](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PharmReportNew)
- Rule [4729:2-4-02](#) of the Administrative Code is a new version of the pharmacy intern duty to report rule. For more information on the new version of this rule, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/InternReportNew](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/InternReportNew).
- Rule [4729:3-4-02](#) of the Administrative Code is a new version of the current pharmacy technician duty to report rule. For more information on the new version of this rule, visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/TechReportNew](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/TechReportNew).

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## Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month Toolkit

SAMHSA has released a toolkit for the first Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month, to be observed January 2025. Treatment Month raises awareness of the benefits and availability of evidence-based treatments for people with a substance use disorder; addresses barriers to treatment, including stigma; and normalizes seeking help.

The toolkit includes information about weekly themes, social media graphics and messaging, a webinar background, and resources that public health organizations, treatment providers, professional associations, and others can use to spread awareness of Treatment Month.

Access the toolkit [here](#).

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## DEA Exception for Practitioners Who Dispense Controlled Substances

DEA will grant an exception for practitioners in such states to those provisions of DEA regulations that normally require practitioners to register in each state where they dispense controlled substances. Under the exception, **DEA-registered practitioners are not required to obtain additional registration(s) with DEA in the additional state(s) where the dispensing (including prescribing and administering) occurs, for the duration of the public health emergency** declared on January 31, 2020, if authorized to dispense controlled substances by both the state in which a practitioner is registered with DEA and the state in which the dispensing occurs. **Practitioners, in other words, must be registered with DEA in at least one state and have permission under state law to practice using controlled substances in the state where the dispensing occurs.**

## Third Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications

In 2023, in response to a set of proposed telemedicine rules, DEA received more than 38,000 comments and held two days of public listening sessions. In light of that feedback and discussion, and to give DEA time to consider a new path forward for telemedicine, DEA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended current telemedicine flexibilities through the end of 2024.

DEA continues to carefully consider the input received and are working to promulgate a final set of telemedicine regulations. However, with the end of 2024 quickly approaching, DEA, jointly with HHS, has extended current telemedicine flexibilities through December 31, 2025. The full text of the extension, entitled “Third Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications,” was submitted to the Federal Register jointly with HHS on November 15, 2024.

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## DEA Warns Healthcare Workers of Impersonation Scam Targeting Doctors and Pharmacists

The New Orleans Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is issuing a critical alert to healthcare professionals, warning of recent scam calls targeting doctors and pharmacists. Fraudsters are impersonating DEA agents to steal sensitive information and possibly extort money.

Please know DEA personnel will never contact medical practitioners or members of the public by telephone to request personal or sensitive information, demand money, or any other form of payment. Legitimate DEA agents will only notify individuals of investigations or legal actions in person or via official letter.

Reported scam tactics continually change but often share many of the same characteristics. Callers use names found online of well-known DEA officials, retired or former Special Agents, and/or police officers in local departments. Callers will also provide fake badge numbers.

For more information, including an actual recording of a phone call of a person who attempts to impersonate a DEA Special Agent, visit: <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2024/10/24/dea-warns-healthcare-workers-impersonation-scam-targeting-doctors-and>

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## Be Vigilant - Watch Out for Scammers!

**BOARD STAFF DO NOT ASK FOR MONEY OVER THE PHONE OR VIA EMAIL TO RESOLVE PENDING INVESTIGATIONS. WHEN IN DOUBT, PLEASE CONTACT THE BOARD IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE THE TARGET OF A SCAM.**

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy continues to learn that licensees are being targeted by scammers who claim to work for various governmental agencies (Board of Pharmacy, DEA, FBI, Department of Justice, etc.) to obtain money from the target. The Board strongly encourages licensees to be alert to avoid scammers.

Scammers may try to initiate contact via phone calls, emails, faxes, and letters purporting to originate from various state and federal agencies that include allegations of drug trafficking and

threats of suspension against the target's license.

Board of Pharmacy investigators will not ask for fine payment or personal/sensitive information over the phone and will never contact licensees via fax. As a reminder, administrative fines issued by the Board are not paid via gift cards or cryptocurrency. If the Board of Pharmacy is conducting an investigation and that individual faces action against their license, they will receive an official notice of opportunity for a hearing either via certified mail, personal service, or electronic registered mail.

If you are contacted by a scammer, please report this information using the Board's online complaint form: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/complaint](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/complaint). Additionally, reports should be made to your local law enforcement agency.

If you receive any suspicious calls or correspondence purporting to be from the Board of Pharmacy, we encourage you to call (614-466-4143) or email ([contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov](mailto:contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov)) the Board to confirm its legitimacy.



***People call, text, and chat the 988 Lifeline to talk about a lot of emotional needs—not just thoughts of suicide. Whatever your reason, the #988Lifeline is there to help. There is hope.***

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Ohio Board of Pharmacy  
**Mike DeWine**, Governor | **Steven W. Schierholt**, Executive Director

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