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## Reminder: OARRS Now Alerts Healthcare Providers About Previous Overdose History

Dear OARRS Users,

On December 16, 2024, the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) started to alert healthcare providers about patients who have experienced a non-fatal drug overdose. The non-fatal drug overdose indicator is intended to improve care coordination and promote access to medication for opioid use disorder and other tools to prevent fatal overdoses.

For more information about the indicator, please see the following quick reference guide: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NFOD](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NFOD).

### Important Reminders:

- A history of non-fatal drug overdose is NOT reflected in the Overdose Risk Score (ORS) listed on a patient's OARRS report.
- The indicator does not provide information on overdoses treated by EMS where the patient refused transport to a hospital or overdoses that were treated in Ohio hospitals prior to April 8, 2024.
- The indicator is visible to prescribers and pharmacists only.
- This information is intended to be used to improve care coordination and ***should not*** be used to terminate a patient relationship.

To assist pharmacists in using this information, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy developed a frequently asked questions document that can be accessed here: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NFpharmacist](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NFpharmacist)

To assist prescribers in using this information, Ohio's healthcare regulatory boards developed a frequently asked questions document that can be accessed here: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NFprescriber](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NFprescriber)

Among Ohioans who died in 2022 from an unintentional drug overdose, at least 32% experienced a prior non-fatal overdose. Additionally, 26% of those who suffered a fatal overdose in 2022 received a prescription for a controlled substance from a healthcare provider within 60 days of their death. These interactions with the healthcare system reinforce the need to ensure high-risk patients have access to interventions such as overdose reversal medications (e.g., naloxone) and medication for opioid use disorder.

This new alert system is another example of Governor DeWine's ongoing and comprehensive efforts to prevent overdose deaths and fight drug addiction. Ohio's coordinated efforts are achieving results.

In October, [Governor DeWine announced](#) that newly verified data by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) demonstrated that the number of overdose deaths in Ohio have dropped substantially for a second consecutive calendar year.

***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*

Ohio Board of Pharmacy | 77 S. High St 17th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215 US

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