Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) E-Newsletter - Fall 2025

A Message from our Executive Director

Dear OARRS User,

OARRS continues to strive to provide the most comprehensive tool possible to assist in clinical decision making and patient safety. New features that will be rolling out in September include:

- **MOUD Clarity** – As of September 4, 2025, OARRS Patient Reports now include information on **patients** who may be experiencing MOUD treatment discontinuation. This information is intended to support a more comprehensive assessment by healthcare professionals, which may lead to more timely care coordination efforts. For more information, visit: **www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/MOUDclarity**.

- **Co-Rx Clarity** – Beginning September 24, 2025, OARRS Patient Reports will include information on patients who may meet criteria in the Ohio Administrative Code that require a provider to offer a prescription for an overdose reversal medication (such as naloxone). For more information, visit: **www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CoRxClarity**.

Prescriber and Dispenser threshold alerts have also been consolidated into a single alert and are presented as a State Indicator on the patient OARRS report any time a patient receives a prescription for a controlled substance from three or more prescribers and three or more dispensers in a 90-day period.

Additionally, the Daily Active MME Threshold alert has been updated to populate as a State Indicator on the patient OARRS report when the patient receives a cumulative daily opioid dosage greater than 50 MME/day.

All alerts on an OARRS report are intended to aid, and not replace, medical decision making. Clinical Alerts found on a patient OARRS report are not an indication that a practitioner or patient has done anything wrong, but rather to highlight potential concerns which should be vetted with the patient, prescribers, and pharmacists as necessary to help facilitate patient care.

Questions regarding the new and updated alerts can be directed to the OARRS Department at **support@pharmacy.ohio.gov**.

Thank you for all that you do to keep Ohioans safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Schierholt
Executive Director
Ohio Board of Pharmacy

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.

OARRS Updates

PMPAware Emails

OARRS users may occasionally receive emails from **no-reply@ohio.PMPAWARE.net**. Emails from this sender are from OARRS to provide information on important program updates and features or to serve as a reminder that your account password needs to be reset. OARRS passwords are set to expire after 180 days.

Phishing scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated, making it more difficult to identify nefarious players. If an email ever feels "off", take a moment to verify its legitimacy. Common red flags include:

- Poor spelling or grammar
- Urgent demands for money or information
- Suspicious attachments or mismatched URLs

Before clicking any link, hover over it to check the URL. It should direct you to a recognizable and secure website associated with the Board of Pharmacy. Emails from the Board of Pharmacy will come from one of the following domains:

- @pharmacy.ohio.gov – general notifications/communications
- @PMPAWARE.net – OARRS system communications

If you are in doubt about the legitimacy of any emails claiming to be from the Board of Pharmacy, there is a **Verify Messages** link under the Publications tab.

If you have additional questions, they can be directed to **support@pharmacy.ohio.gov** for OARRS-related questions, or to **contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov** for general questions.

OARRS Accounts

Each OARRS user is required to have their own account. Usernames and passwords should never be shared.

If you need to register for your own OARRS account, you can register **here**.

If you currently have an OARRS account, please take a moment to review your information. If any of your information has changed (i.e., new name, new role, new credentials, etc.) please do not create a new account. If you need to update your role and your credentials, please email **support@pharmacy.ohio.gov** with your updated information and we will gladly assist with updating your account.

OARRS Data Submission

<u>Data Accuracy</u>

Information contained within an OARRS report is received directly from dispensers. Since patients often visit more than one pharmacy over the course of time, it is important that information submitted to OARRS be as accurate as possible to ensure prescribers and pharmacists can make the most informed clinical decisions for their patients. OARRS uses complex algorithms to match patient records to provide the most comprehensive report possible. However, errors and inaccurate data can hinder these processes.

Incorrect information submitted to OARRS can have several unintended consequences, such as creating incomplete or inaccurate patient dispensing history or attributing prescriptions to the wrong prescriber. These situations may leave a patient vulnerable to medication errors or dismissed from their prescriber. A prescriber that is inappropriately assigned to a prescription they did not write can cause concern that their identity is compromised or lead to red flags and/or discipline from their employer.

Here are some tips to help improve data quality when entering and submitting patient prescription information:

- Use legal names instead of nicknames to help create consistency among pharmacies
- Do not add notes into the patient's name field (i.e., check ID, pickup only, etc.)
- Double check spelling!
- Avoid special characters which can be interpreted differently by computer code languages
    - This includes apostrophes (') within a name
- Choose the correct prescriber with the appropriate DEA and NPI numbers
    - Remember OH1111119 can ONLY be used for gabapentin and naltrexone prescriptions when a prescriber **does not** have a DEA number and should NEVER be used for a controlled substance prescription
- Make sure the day supply submitted is accurate for the instructions of the prescription
- Submit appropriate quantities, especially when dispensing kits, which should be entered as the number of kits dispensed, not the number of doses in the kit

A free 1.0 hour CE on Data Quality in Prescription Monitoring Programs is available to pharmacists and technicians through 10/20/2025. Click **here** for more information.

<u>Data Reporting Requirements</u>

Ohio Administrative Code **4729:8-3-04** specifies the required frequency of reporting to OARRS. Any terminal distributor or prescriber that has dispensed or personally furnished medication in the previous 3 years must submit all dispenses of **reportable medications** daily. A zero report must be submitted for each day a reportable medication has not been dispensed or personally furnished. Any record of a dispensed or personally furnished reportable medication must be reported to the Board of Pharmacy within 24 hours of being dispensed or personally furnished.

An exemption can be requested if the business is no longer dispensing or personally furnishing medications, or for specific days the business is closed. The OARRS Exemption Request form can be found **here**.

For additional information on the rules for personally furnishing dangerous drugs, please see OAC **4729:5-19-02**.

<u>ICD-10 / CDT Codes</u>

Ohio Administrative Code **4729:8-3-02** the pharmacy must submit the first four alpha numeric characters of the ICD-10 code (ex. M16.5) or the CDT code for dental procedures on all controlled substance prescriptions dispensed.

If multiple codes are listed on the prescription, only submit the code for the primary disease or condition the controlled substance is being used to treat. The OARRS system is unable to read multiple codes and will show on the patient OARRS report as "INVALID".

If a prescriber does not include a code on the prescription, the pharmacy shall indicate "NC" in the diagnosis data field.

Electronic Transmission of Dispensation Information - ASAP 5.0

Remember that the electronic format for transmitting prescription dispensation information to OARRS needs to be compliant with the ASAP 5.0 data standard by July 1, 2026. Information on ASAP 5.0 can be found **here**.

4729:8-3-02 and **4729:8-3-03** provide the full text to the updated rules which go into effect July 1, 2026. The rules permit the Board's Executive Director to authorize an additional six-month extension if a pharmacy or prescriber has made all reasonable and prudent attempts to meet the deadline.

Additional information regarding the requirements of ASAP 5.0 will be made available soon. Questions regarding the rules can be directed to **www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/contact**.