



Authorization for Pharmacy Technician Trainees to Stock Automated Pharmacy Systems and Automated Drug Storage Systems

Updated 6/16/2023

REMINDER:

- **Certified pharmacy technicians are permitted to stock automated drug storage systems in accordance to rule [4729:3-3-04](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code.**
- **Registered pharmacy technicians are permitted to stock automated drug storage systems in accordance to rule [4729:3-3-03](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code.**

To mitigate possible ongoing workforce shortages due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy has adopted the following resolution to permit pharmacy technician trainees to stock automated pharmacy systems and automated drug storage systems at a location licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs, subject to certain conditions.

As used in this resolution, an “automated drug storage system” means a mechanical system used for the secure storage of dangerous drugs used as floor stock or contingency drugs. An “automated pharmacy system” means a mechanical system that performs operations or activities other than administration, relative to storage, packaging, compounding, dispensing, or distribution of dangerous drugs that collects, controls, and maintains transaction information and records.

A pharmacy technician trainee may stock an automated drug storage system or automated pharmacy system if **all** the following conditions are met:

1. The automated system utilizes a barcode scanning system at the fill station.
2. **For automated drug storage system only:** the system or the electronic health record used to administer drugs utilizes barcode medication administration (BCMA).
3. Pharmacy technician trainees must complete documented training on stocking an automated drug storage system or automated pharmacy system.
4. The terminal distributor of dangerous drugs must develop and implement a quality assurance program to track the accuracy of the technician restocking the automated systems, such as medication error reporting and resolving fill errors immediately.
5. A pharmacy technician trainee may stock automated drug storage systems, at a location licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs if a pharmacist is not physically present at the licensed location and all the following apply:
 - i) A pharmacist is readily available to answer questions of the technician;
 - ii) A pharmacist is responsible for conducting routine verifications of the activities of the technician to prevent the diversion of dangerous drugs;
 - iii) A pharmacist is fully responsible for all activities conducted by the technician at the licensed location.

This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.

For questions regarding this resolution, please e-mail the Board office by visiting:

<http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/contact.aspx>.