



## **OARRS Fact Sheet for Pharmacists**

**Updated 9/6/2019**

### **What is OARRS?**

To address the misuse and diversion of prescription drugs and promote improved patient care, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy created Ohio's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), known as the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS). OARRS collects information on all outpatient prescriptions for controlled substances and gabapentin dispensed by Ohio-licensed pharmacies and personally furnished by licensed prescribers in Ohio.

OARRS also tracks naltrexone dispensed by pharmacies to Ohio patients and medical marijuana sold by Ohio dispensaries.

OARRS data is accessed through a [secure website](#) or via [integrated access](#). Authorized users may generate reports 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### **Who may have an account to access OARRS?**

Accounts to access the database are available to prescribers and pharmacists for the purpose of treating *current or prospective patients*. This includes a patient who makes an appointment, has a referral, or presents a prescription. Obtaining data on any other person is a violation of Ohio law.

Account passwords cannot be shared. Delegate accounts are available for staff to use on behalf of a prescriber or pharmacist. Each applicant must apply for their own account. There are no "office use" accounts.

**IMPORTANT:** Only pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians (trainees, registered, and certified) may serve as a pharmacist's delegate.

### **What is reported and how long does it take for prescription data to show up on the report?**

Any pharmacy that is licensed by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, even if located outside of Ohio, is required to report the dispensing of all Schedule II through Schedule V controlled substance medications, any gabapentin-containing product, and naltrexone when dispensed for treatment of substance abuse disorder to the OARRS database on a daily basis.

Prescribers who personally furnish controlled substances or gabapentin for patients to use at home must also report that information to the database. This includes any samples.

Please be advised that federal privacy rules prohibit the submission of dispensing data from opioid treatment programs (sometimes referred to as methadone clinics).

### **How long does it take to get an actual patient report?**

After logging into the website and entering the patient search criteria, a report typically takes only a few seconds to complete and be available for viewing. A few reports (approximately 0.4%) require a manual review by a Board pharmacist before they are released. For more information about requesting a report, [click here](#).

Additionally, those with integrated access to the system will be able to review patient information within their dispensing software or EHR.

### **How accurate is the database?**

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy makes every effort to ensure that data provided to OARRS is complete and accurate. However, information contained in the report is based on data entered by the dispensing pharmacy or by the dispensing practitioner and therefore errors and omissions may occur. Thus, the report should only be used to supplement a patient

evaluation and aid in the professional judgment being made by the prescriber or pharmacist. For more information about a particular prescription, contact the dispensing pharmacy or the prescriber.

### **Is prescription data available from neighboring states?**

OARRS is currently linked to other states via PMP InterConnect®. Prescribers and pharmacists may request data from states that are listed at the bottom of the “submit request” page.

### **How do I register for an OARRS account?**

To register for an account, complete the following steps:

1. Visit the website at [www.ohiopmp.gov](http://www.ohiopmp.gov)
2. Click on “Register” and follow the prompts.
3. The account is manually activated by OARRS staff once all required information is included in the account registration.

### **Are pharmacists required to use OARRS?**

Yes. Rule [4729-5-20](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code requires a pharmacist to request and review an OARRS report covering at least a one-year time period in any of the following circumstances:

1. Patient adds a different or new reportable drug to their therapy that was not previously included
2. An OARRS report has not been reviewed for that patient during the preceding 12 months, as indicated in the patient profile
3. A prescriber is located outside the usual pharmacy geographic area
4. A patient is from outside the usual pharmacy geographic area
5. A pharmacist has reason to believe the patient has received prescriptions for controlled substances from more than one prescriber in the preceding three months, unless the prescriptions are from prescribers who practice at the same physical location (i.e. same group practice)

6. Patient is exhibiting signs of potential abuse or diversion. This includes but is not limited to:
- a. Over-utilization
  - b. Early Refills
  - c. Visible intoxication or sedation

For more information on OARRS rules for pharmacists, visit:

<https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/LawsRules/OARRSRules.aspx>

**Who do I contact for questions about OARRS?**

For questions about OARRS, visit: <https://www.ohiopmp.gov/Contact.aspx>