



**STATE OF  
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BOARD OF PHARMACY



For Immediate Release  
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**State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and Mount Carmel Health System Announce Integration of OARRS into Electronic Health Records**

***Solution aims to reduce prescription drug abuse by giving providers seamless access to OARRS***

**December 2, 2016 – Columbus, Ohio** – The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy and Mount Carmel Health System announced the integration of Mount Carmel's electronic health records (EHR) with the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), the state's prescription monitoring program (PMP).

Integration of OARRS with Cerner's PowerChart EHR allows more than 2,300 providers in Mount Carmel's acute care hospitals and emergency departments to instantly access patient controlled substance prescription information.

"As the first major health system to integrate with OARRS, Mount Carmel is helping lead the way to improve patient care and reduce prescription drug abuse," said Steven Schierholt, executive director at the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy. "I am proud of the work we have achieved through our partnership with Mount Carmel, Cerner and Appriss Health."

"Our goal is always to make sure our physicians and clinicians have the tools needed to deliver the best care in every setting," said Janet Whittey, chief pharmacy officer, Mount Carmel. "In the Emergency Department especially, where seconds count, having instant electronic access to OARRS data gives our providers vital patient information that can be used to help us deliver safe, effective care. We are thrilled to be the first major health system to develop and use this technology for the benefit of our patients," she added.

"Cerner is privileged to work alongside Mount Carmel, our partner Appriss Health and the state of Ohio to provide physicians actionable information seamlessly into the workflow, which assists in fighting the epidemic of prescription drug abuse and diversion," said Casey Sansale, director of physician and medical specialty strategy at Cerner. "Powerful PMP data is now available within seconds during the prescription writing process, an activity that until now added time and complexity to the physician's extraordinarily busy day. We believe this crucial information should be easy for providers to access and be centered around the patient. This is one step closer to realizing that goal."

Established in 2006, OARRS is a statewide database that collects information on all prescriptions for controlled substances that are dispensed by pharmacies or furnished by prescribers in Ohio. OARRS is designed to monitor this information for suspected abuse or diversion and can provide a prescriber or pharmacist with critical information regarding a patient's controlled substance prescription history. This information can help prescribers and pharmacists identify high-risk patients who would benefit from early interventions.

On October 26, 2015, Governor Kasich announced an investment of up to \$1.5 million a year to integrate OARRS directly into electronic medical records and pharmacy dispensing systems across the state, allowing instant access for prescribers and pharmacists. Ohio is utilizing an integration technology called PMP Gateway, provided by Appriss Health, with the goal of connecting every clinical, hospital and pharmacy system in Ohio directly to OARRS. Since the announcement, OARRS has completed integration with the following vendors: Cerner, ProComp, Transaction Data Systems (RX30) and PioneerRx.

For more information on OARRS integration, please visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/integration](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/integration).

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