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## E-News April 2023

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### **National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 22, 2023**

Saturday, April 22nd is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription medications.

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy encourages you to inform your patients of this great opportunity to safely dispose of unused prescription drugs. For collection site locations, please visit: [https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/).

The Board of Pharmacy has also published resources to help Ohio residents find drug disposal boxes throughout the year. To access the disposal box locators, please visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/disposal](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/disposal).

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### **Board Publishes Updated Workload Rule for Stakeholder Comment (Comments Due 5.5.23)**

As part of the Pharmacist Workload Advisory Committee, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is issuing a draft rule on the minimum standards for an outpatient pharmacy. This rule was developed from the comments received from two previous draft rules (quotas and meal breaks) as well as the work of the committee. Those comments were then incorporated into a new version of the outpatient pharmacy minimum standards rule (OAC 4729:5-5-02). Comments on the rule are due by May 5, 2023.

A copy of the rules and instructions for submitting feedback can be found here: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/minstandardsrule](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/minstandardsrule)

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### **State Medical Board of Ohio Adopts New Rules on Controlled Substances for Weight Loss Rules**

[Ohio Administrative Code 4731-11-04](#) became effective on **February 28, 2023**. This rule outlines the requirements for prescribing controlled substances for weight loss in Ohio. Pharmacists are recommended to familiarize themselves with the new rules. For more information, please contact the State Medical Board of Ohio at [contact@med.ohio.gov](mailto:contact@med.ohio.gov).

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### **Reminder: Xylazine is a Schedule III Controlled Substance in Ohio**

On March 29, 2023, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy classified xylazine as a Schedule III Controlled Substance via emergency rule. To ensure that licensees remain in compliance with Ohio Law, the Board issued temporary enforcement waivers for veterinary clinics, terminal distributors (including pharmacies), and drug distributors: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/xylazineCOMP](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/xylazineCOMP).

***Please review the timeframe for each enforcement waiver to ensure compliance with Ohio law.***

## Board of Pharmacy Issues Guidance on New Laws Governing the Distribution of Overdose Reversal Drugs

On April 6, 2023, new laws expanding access to overdose reversal drugs (ORDs), such as naloxone, went into effect.

To assist Ohioans in understanding these new laws, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy developed the following guidance document: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/ORD](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/ORD)

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## HHS Announces Intent to Amend the Declaration Under the PREP Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19

On April 14, 2023, HHS Secretary Becerra announced that in the coming weeks, he will issue an amendment to the declaration under the *Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness* (PREP) Act for medical countermeasures against COVID-19. One key change that is planned is to extend the coverage for COVID-19 vaccines, seasonal influenza vaccines, and COVID-19 tests.

According to HHS, PREP Act immunity from liability will be extended through December 2024 to pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians to administer COVID-19 and seasonal influenza vaccines (to those individuals three and over, consistent with other requirements), and COVID-19 tests, regardless of any USG agreement or emergency declaration.

Please be advised that the Board's proposed pharmacy technician vaccination rules are still pending review by the legislature and will not be in effect until the summer. The Board will provide communication and further guidance to licensees when those rules become effective.

For more information on this announcement by HHS, please visit: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/04/14/factsheet-hhs-announces-amend-declaration-prep-act-medical-countermeasures-against-covid19.html>

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## Training Requirements for DEA Registered Practitioners

On December 29, 2022, changes to federal law that eliminated the DEA X-Waiver to prescribe medication for opioid use disorder also enacted a new **one-time**, eight-hour training requirement for all Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-registered practitioners on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders. The following letter from DEA provides information to practitioners as to how they can meet those training requirements:

[https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/docs/MATE\\_Training\\_Letter\\_Final.pdf](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/docs/MATE_Training_Letter_Final.pdf)

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## Resources for Pharmacists Selling Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids

[The Food and Drug Administration's \(FDA\) final rule](#) for over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids, which creates a new regulatory class of hearing aids, is now in effect. While OTC hearing aids will be widely available at lower costs to many adults with self-perceived mild to moderate hearing loss, they are not right for everyone.

Pharmacists who may be assisting patients in the purchase of OTC hearing aids should familiarize themselves with the requirements of FDA's rule. To assist pharmacists and patients, the Board would like to highlight the following resources:

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association - Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Toolkit: <https://www.asha.org/aud/otc-hearing-aid-toolkit/>.

- University of Pittsburgh - CHAMP: Championing Hearing Using Accessible Medication Experts at the Community Pharmacy: <https://www.credly.com/org/university-of-pittsburgh/badge/champ-championing-hearing-using-accessible-medication-experts-at-the-community-pharmacy>.
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