



E-NEWS UPDATE
MAY 2016 EDITION

Pharmacist Dispensing of Naloxone: Education is Essential

One of the most effective tools at reversing an opioid overdose is naloxone hydrochloride (Narcan). To expand access to this life-saving drug, the Ohio General Assembly adopted legislation to allow pharmacists to dispense this medication without a prescription to an at-risk opioid user or someone who can intervene in the event of an overdose. Unfortunately, the Board has received a number of reports of pharmacists that have either turned away customers despite the fact that their pharmacy notified the Board that they offer this service or that have failed to provide the appropriate training to their patients on use of the medication.

Pharmacists who work at any pharmacy that has submitted notification to the Board that they are dispensing naloxone pursuant to a physician protocol should familiarize themselves with the requirements in rule 4729-5-39 of the Ohio Administrative Code. If you are unsure of whether your pharmacy offers naloxone without a prescription, a full list of participating pharmacies can be accessed here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/naloxonepharmacy.

Additionally, pharmacists are reminded that patient training should go beyond the provision of written materials and should include a comprehensive review of all the requirements stipulated in rule. Your responsibility for patient education is critical as it could help save a life. For more information on these requirements as well as training materials for pharmacists, please visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/naloxone.

Reporting Buprenorphine Prescriptions to OARRS

Question: When reporting buprenorphine prescriptions to OARRS, which identifier should be reported, the prescriber's regular DEA number, or their "X" number?

Answer: When reporting buprenorphine prescribed for the purpose of treating addiction, report the "X" number. When reporting buprenorphine prescribed for the treatment of pain, report the regular DEA number.

Veterinary Drug References

As more consumers fill prescriptions for their pets at pharmacies, the importance for clear communication between pharmacists and veterinarians grows. This is particularly true as dosing and drug substitution for human drugs used in veterinary applications can vary considerably between human and animal patients. For example, modifying what appears to be too high a dose for a thyroid supplement for an animal can result in sub-therapeutic treatment, antihistamines containing pseudoephedrine can cause serious reactions in animals, and not all forms of insulin can be used to treat animals so substitutions which may be fine for human patients may not be for animals.

In addition to communicating with the prescribing veterinarian, having a copy of common veterinary drug references in the pharmacy would be prudent and help ensure the safety of animal patients. Two publications used in veterinary medicine for drug referencing are Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook and the Merck Veterinary Manual.

Compliance Frequently Asked Question

Question: Does the BMI (Body Mass Index) have to be written on a diet drug prescription?

Answer: No. While BMI is useful clinical information for the pharmacist, it is not required to be written on the prescription per OAC 4729-5-30.

2016 Roundtables

Come join the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy in a roundtable presentation to learn the duties of a pharmacist and the importance of this role in ensuring compliance with Ohio's laws and regulations. Loss prevention managers, retail managers and pharmacists are encouraged to attend. Registration information and a full list of presentation dates, times and locations can be found by visiting www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/roundtables.

A roundtable presentation qualifies for 2 hours (0.2 CEU) of State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy approved jurisprudence continuing education.

2016 Continuing Education Law Presentations

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy will be holding a series of law presentations throughout the state. The presentations, approved for 2 hours (0.2 CEU) of Board of Pharmacy approved jurisprudence continuing education, will provide an overview of existing laws impacting pharmacists with an emphasis on recent updates to the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code. Registration info and a full list of presentation dates, times and locations can be found by visiting www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/2016Law.

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