



**E-NEWS UPDATE
APRIL 2017 EDITION, VOL. 2**

Continuing Education Opportunities In Cultural Competency For Pharmacy Professionals

Although it can be defined in numerous ways, cultural competency in pharmacy practice is generally a complex integration of knowledge, attitudes, and skills that promotes effective communication and appropriate interactions with patients from various ethnic and/or cultural groups.

Cultural competency can foster a greater understanding and appreciation of diverse patient populations, giving pharmacy professionals additional information and insight to enrich patient care. The skills developed with cultural competency allow healthcare providers to understand and respect a patient's cultural identity.

The Board has developed a guidance document to assist pharmacy professionals in locating existing continuing education courses addressing cultural competency. While there is no requirement to complete continuing education relating to this subject, the Board encourages its licensees to consider these important learning opportunities.

To view the guidance document, please visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/cultural.

Changes Coming to OARRS - IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) is upgrading to the PMP AWARxE software platform on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Here are key dates and important information about the upcoming transition.

April 20, 2017: The OARRS registration function will be disabled to allow for the upgrade to the new system. Anyone wishing to register for an OARRS account should register prior to April 20, 2017. To register, please visit: www.ohiopmp.gov/Portal/Registration/Default.aspx. Please use a unique email address (not a general office email inbox) to register your account.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you have an OARRS account, you will still be able to access the system.
- The registration function will resume on April 25, 2017.
- While the registration function will be disabled, the password reset function will still be enabled.
- For the purposes of enforcing OARRS check requirements in law, the Board will not be holding prescribers/pharmacists accountable for failing to have an account when the registration function is disabled.

April 25, 2017: In the new system, users will log in using their email address rather than a username. This means each user account must have a unique email address. Any accounts that share an email address will NOT be transferred to PMP AWARxE.

If your account is transferred to the new system: You will receive an email notification on April 25th with the new website details, including login information and a guide for how to run a patient search.

If your account is not transferred (i.e. you do not receive an email notification on April 25th): You will be required to register for a new account. On April 25th, instructions for registration will be available on: www.ohiopmp.gov.

IMPORTANT: The transition to the new software will only impact OARRS users accessing the system via the website. It should not impact the operation of systems that are currently integrated with OARRS.

Should you have any policy questions or need assistance gaining access to your existing OARRS account, contact OARRS at info@pharmacy.ohio.gov.

New Limits On Prescription Opiates for Acute Pain

On Thursday, March 30th, Governor Kasich, Board President, Michael Moné, and leaders of the Medical, Nursing and Dental Boards announced [new limits on prescription opiate prescribing](#).

The limits, which must be adopted through administrative rule by each Board, will place commonsense parameters on the use of opiates for the treatment of acute pain. Based on data from the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), it is estimated that the state could see an additional reduction of 109 million opiate doses once the new rules are in effect.

PLEASE NOTE: The limits are NOT currently effective and must be adopted by the Medical, Nursing and Dental Boards through the administrative rules process. The Board of Pharmacy will be adopting separate rules to assist with the implementation of the limits.

For more information regarding the proposed rules, please visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/acute.
