

COVID-19 Response Efforts - March 30, 2020

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is committed to protecting the health and safety of Ohioans during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Board posted a document on its website that provides COVID-19 guidance and response efforts, including the issuance of waivers to assist licensees in addressing operational needs. This document will be updated regularly and can be accessed by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID.

For more information on the state's efforts to address coronavirus, visit www.coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

DEA Guidance on Oral CII Prescriptions – NEW!

DEA is aware that during this pandemic there are obstacles to practitioners meeting with their existing patients and providing these patients with written prescriptions for schedule II controlled substances. As a result, practitioners and pharmacists have asked DEA to clarify the circumstances under which oral schedule II prescriptions are permitted. DEA provides the following guidance on this topic and announces temporary exceptions.

This guidance has been posted to the Board's website and can be accessed here.

Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products UPDATED 3/30/20

Due to the public health emergency posed by COVID-19, the FDA has issued <u>additional guidance</u> permitting the use of alcohol (i.e., ethanol or ethyl alcohol) produced by alcohol production firms to be used as the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) in alcohol-based hand sanitizers for consumer use and for use as health care personnel hand rubs for the duration of the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of HHS on January 31, 2020.

The Board's updated guidance on compounding alcohol-based hand sanitizer products can be accessed here.

Reminder: Wholesale Customer Due Diligence Requirements Extended

In order to ensure the continuity of the drug supply chain and not place an undue burden on licensees during the COVID-19 outbreak, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has extended the drug distributor due diligence requirements pursuant to paragraph (G) of rule 4729:6-3-05 of the Administrative Code to June 29, 2020.

During this time, wholesalers and other drug distributors should provide pharmacy customers and other terminal distributors with additional time to complete such requirements.