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## E-News Update January 2020

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### Reminder: Pharmacy Technician Renewal

Registered pharmacy technician renewal will begin in January 2020. As part of the renewal process, a registered pharmacy technician will be required to complete a total of **ten contact hours** (1.0 CEUs) of continuing pharmacy education during the 24 months preceding the expiration date of a registered technician's registration (i.e. April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020).

It's important that registered pharmacy technicians maintain their registration and complete their required continuing education. By failing to renew a registration, both the registered pharmacy technician and the pharmacy may face administrative action if the employee continues to practice as a technician. The Board will be conducting audits of registered pharmacy technicians to determine if continuing education requirements have been met. Certificates and other documented evidence of participation only need to be submitted to the Board when requested.

All registered pharmacy technicians must obtain a free CPE monitor account from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. This account will be used to report and monitor the successful completion of ACPE approved continuing pharmacy education.

The Board has also created a guidance document that can be found by visiting:  
[www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/techCE](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/techCE)

Starting in January 2020, the Board will begin verifying certified technicians have a valid ExCPT or PTCB certification. A certified technician must meet the continuing education requirements for their pharmacy technician certification (ExCPT or PTCB). Any certified technician who holds a valid certification is not required to complete the ten contact hours that is required for a registered pharmacy technician. Failure to maintain an ExCPT or PTCB certification may result in disciplinary action by the Board. Therefore, all Ohio certified technicians should make sure they have valid certifications prior to January 2020. If a certified pharmacy technician no longer wishes to maintain their ExCPT or PTCB certification, the applicant will be required to re-apply as a registered pharmacy technician.

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### Accessibility of Epinephrine Autoinjectors

Ohio has recently enacted two laws intended to promote the accessibility of epinephrine autoinjectors.

Section 4729.382 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes a pharmacist to substitute an epinephrine autoinjector if the form of epinephrine in the dispensed autoinjector, when compared to the form in the prescribed autoinjector complies with all of the following:

1. *Is a pharmaceutical equivalent of the form of epinephrine in the type of autoinjector that was prescribed in that it contains identical amounts of the identical active ingredients, but not necessarily the same inactive ingredients.*
2. *Has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and*
3. *Has not been excluded from recognition as a pharmaceutical equivalent form of epinephrine by rules adopted by the Board of Pharmacy.*

Section 4729.47 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to dispense epinephrine autoinjectors without a prescription pursuant to a physician protocol. To implement this section of law, the Board has adopted the following rules:

- [4729:1-3-06](#) - Dispensing of epinephrine autoinjectors by pharmacists
- [4729:2-3-06](#) - Dispensing of epinephrine autoinjectors by pharmacy interns.

To assist pharmacists in understanding these new laws, the Board has developed a frequently asked questions document. This document is available at: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/EpiLaws](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/EpiLaws).

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## Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services Training Opportunity

Ohio is receiving federal funds over two years to focus on developing a skilled workforce that can prescribe buprenorphine for medication assisted treatment (MAT). MAT has been recognized as a critical component in the treatment of people with opioid use disorder.

Currently, buprenorphine availability is limited in Ohio because it is the only form of MAT that requires prescribers (i.e., physicians, physician assistants or advanced nurse practitioners) to have a unique DEA license (aka, DATA 2000 waiver). Prescribers must take additional training to obtain this license through one eight-hour course and then apply for a DATA 2000 waiver through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Training events will occur several times each month across the state. Please check back if there is not yet a training posted in your area, as additional dates will be added. Physicians who do not have time for the live course may take an [online module](#) at their own pace. ASAM is offering the full eight-hour training to meet federal requirements for the DATA 2000 Waiver.

More information can be found [here](#).

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### Non-Pharmacy Terminal Distributor Rules Effective March 1, 2020

Effective March 1, 2020, the following terminal distributor rule chapters go into effect:

- Pain Management Clinics - 4729:5-11
- First Aid Departments - 4729:5-13
- Animal Shelters - 4729:5-15
- Laboratories - 4729:5-16
- Office-Based Opioid Treatment Facilities - 4729:5-18
- Clinics and Prescriber Offices - 4729:5-19
- Veterinary Clinics - 4729:5-20
- Opioid Treatment Programs - 4729:5-21
- Non-limited Facilities - 4729:5-22
- Limited Facilities - 4729:5-23

**REMINDER:** The above rule chapters **do not apply** to pharmacies, EMS agencies, drug distributors (wholesalers, manufacturers, etc.), and institutional facilities.

To assist licensees in complying with the new rule chapters, the Board recently published inspection guides for each license type. The inspection guides align with internal guidance used by Board inspectors and allow licensee to conduct self-inspections to ensure compliance.

Guides also include links to the new rule chapters, important definitions, and reminders of when a licensee is required to submit notification or additional information to the Board.

The guides are available on the [terminal distributor licensing page](#) and can also be accessed using the short links below:

- Pain Management Clinics – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PMCinspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PMCinspect)
- First Aid Departments – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/FAinspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/FAinspect)
- Animal Shelters – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/ASinspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/ASinspect)
- Laboratories – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/LABinspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/LABinspect)
- Office-Based Opioid Treatment Facilities – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OBOTinspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OBOTinspect)
- Clinics and Prescriber Offices – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CPOinspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CPOinspect)
- Veterinary Clinics – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/VETinspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/VETinspect)
- Opioid Treatment Programs – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OTPininspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OTPininspect)
- Non-limited Facilities – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NLFinspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NLFinspect)
- Limited Facilities – [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/LFinspect](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/LFinspect)

Additional guides for other license types (pharmacies, EMS, institutional, etc.) will be published this year.

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### Clarification on Mandatory E-Prescribing

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has received questions on mandatory e-prescribing in Ohio.

Under current Ohio law, there is no requirement for mandatory e-prescribing.

Beginning in January 1, 2021, all Medicare Part D plans will require the use of e-prescribing for controlled substances prescriptions. The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (HR6) requires the use of e-prescribing for controlled substances (EPCS) for schedule II-V controlled substances covered under a Medicare Part D prescription drug, or a Medicare advantage prescription drug plan starting January 2021.

For more information on Ohio's requirements for issuing a valid prescription, including electronic prescribing of controlled substances visit: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/rx](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/rx).

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