



E-News Update January 2021

Board of Pharmacy Streamlines Vaccine Administration Records for Pharmacy Personnel

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has adopted the following resolution:

To ensure streamlined vaccine administration, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy temporarily authorizes records of COVID-19 vaccine administration by pharmacy personnel (pharmacists, interns, technicians) to comprise the following:

Records of COVID-19 vaccine administration by pharmacy personnel shall contain the name, strength, dosage form, and quantity of the vaccine administered, the name and date of birth of the person to whom or for whose use the vaccine was administered, the date of administration, and the identification of the pharmacy personnel administering the drug. This resolution does not supersede any record keeping requirements from the Ohio Department of Health or any federal agency.

This resolution is being issued in accordance with a Board resolution adopted on May 5, 2020. This resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.

With the adoption of this resolution, pharmacy personnel should note the following:

1. Vaccine administration records across all TDDD sites are now uniform. These are the same record keeping requirements for the administration of vaccines in clinics and other non-pharmacy sites.
2. This only applies to the administration of COVID-19 vaccine.
3. The resolution only requires the identification - not the positive identification - of the individual administering the drug. This means that pharmacy personnel administering the COVID-19 vaccine will still need to document who administered the vaccine, but that such documentation does not have to meet the standard of positive identification.
4. Nothing in this resolution prohibits pharmacy personnel from complying with the original vaccine record keeping requirements set forth in OAC [4729:5-5-04\(L\)](#).

This language has been incorporated into the Board's COVID-19 vaccine guidance documents:

- Pharmacist and pharmacy intern administration of COVID-19 vaccines:
www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDvaccine
- Pharmacy technician administration of vaccines during COVID-19:
www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/TechAdmin

Cultural Competency Continuing Education

In order to provide effective communication with patients, pharmacy professionals must learn to accurately assess their own level of cultural competency and develop methods to improve those skills. 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. This includes effective communication and appropriate interactions with patients from various ethnic and/or cultural groups.

As the state continues to respond to coronavirus, coronavirus has amplified the state's existing health disparities. By becoming better informed, healthcare providers can help to better serve vulnerable populations and Ohioans as a whole. The need to develop cultural competency for healthcare providers is outlined in recommendations by [Governor DeWine's COVID-19 Ohio Minority Health Strike Force Blueprint](#). They recommend the need for community-tailored delivery of programs, services, and resources.

While there is no requirement to complete continuing education relating to this subject, the Board strongly encourages its licensees to consider these important learning opportunities. More information about continuing education can be found here: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/cultural

Updates to Outpatient Pharmacy Inspection Guide

On 1/11/2021, the Board issued updates to the Outpatient Pharmacy Inspection Guide (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/OPinspect). To review updates, please see the update history section at the end of the document.

Reminder: Protect Yourself Against Phishing Attacks

According to the Federal Trade Commission, phishing is a type of online scam that targets consumers by sending them an e-mail that appears to be from a well-known source – an internet service provider, a bank, or a mortgage company, for example. It asks the consumer to provide personal identifying information. Then a scammer uses the information to open new accounts or invade the consumer’s existing accounts.

While no one can stop a scammer from sending you phishing emails, there are ways to prepare yourself for the next phishing email that lands in your inbox. To further protect yourself, your coworkers, and your organization, please review the following [tips](#) to protect yourself from phishing emails claiming to be from the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy.

- [Tips to Avoid Getting Hooked](#)
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Prescriber Compounding Rules Effective 3/31/2021

Effective March 1, 2021, new rules for prescriber compounding (Chapter 4729:7-3 of the Administrative Code) go into effect.

To assist licensees in complying with the new rule chapter, the Board recently published a prescriber compounding inspection guide, which may be accessed using the following link: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/PrescriberComp. It is also available on the TDDD licensing page under the “Inspection Guide” header: <https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Licensing/TDDD.aspx>

The inspection guide aligns with internal guidance used by Board inspectors and allows licensees to conduct self-inspections to ensure compliance. The guide also includes links to the new rules, important definitions, and reminders of when a licensee is required to submit notification or additional information to the Board.

To provide further guidance to licensees, the Board has opened comment/question period for the inspection guide. This comment period will be open until January 31, 2021. Following the conclusion of this comment period, the Board will review all comments and attempt to address or clarify any issues within the guide.

Comments/questions on the prescriber compounding inspection guide may be sent to: RuleComments@pharmacy.ohio.gov

Recent Changes to Ohio’s Consult Agreement Law

Effective 12/16/2020, changes to section 4729.39 of the Ohio Revised Code (HB 203 – 133rd General Assembly) expand the type of providers with whom a pharmacist may enter into a consult agreement. While continuing to authorize consult agreements between pharmacists and physicians, the law change permits one or more pharmacists to enter into a consult agreement with one or more of the following:

1. Physician assistants, if entering into a consult agreement is authorized by one or more supervising physicians; and
2. Clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, or certified nurse practitioners, if entering into a consult agreement is authorized by one or more collaborating physicians.

Additionally, the law change no longer limits pharmacists to ordering blood and urine tests under a consult agreement.

To assist licensees in implementing this law change, the Board recently updated its consult agreement guidance document: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/consult

For the latest information on Board of Pharmacy COVID-19 updates, visit:
www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID.
