



## Temporary Expansion of Registered Pharmacy Technician Duties and Clarification on Certified Technician Prescription Transfers

**Updated 3/20/2020**

In order to mitigate possible staffing shortages, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has adopted the following guidance to permit registered pharmacy technicians to stock automated drug storage systems and send and receive copies of non-controlled prescriptions, under certain conditions. Additionally, this guidance provides clarification on the positive identification requirements for technicians transferring prescriptions.

This guidance is being issued in accordance with a Board resolution adopted on March 2, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.

### Permitting Registered Pharmacy Technicians to Stock Automated Drug Storage Systems

As used in this guidance, an "automated drug storage system" means a mechanical system used for the secure storage of dangerous drugs used as floor stock or contingency drugs.

For a registered pharmacy technician to stock an automated drug storage system, the system must comply with the following:

1. The system utilizes a barcode scanning system at the fill station;
2. Only one selection of the medication may be open at each time; and
3. The system or the electronic health record used to administer drugs utilizes barcode medication administration (BCMA).

Additionally, the pharmacy shall be responsible for providing the necessary training for registered pharmacy technicians to stock automated drug storage systems in a safe and effective manner.

### Permitting Registered Pharmacy Technicians to Send and Receive Copies of Non-Controlled Prescriptions

Registered pharmacy technicians may send or receive copies of non-controlled prescriptions (i.e. prescription transfers), in accordance with the following:



1. The pharmacist on duty who is supervising the activity of the registered pharmacy technician will determine if the technician is competent to send or receive a prescription copy.
2. The pharmacist on duty who is supervising the activity of the registered pharmacy technician is responsible for the accuracy of a prescription copy that is sent or received by a technician.
3. The pharmacist on duty must be immediately available to answer questions or discuss the prescription copy that is sent or received by a registered pharmacy technician.
4. The registered pharmacy technician may not send or receive a prescription copy for a controlled substance.
5. The pharmacist or registered pharmacy technician receiving a prescription copy from a pharmacy technician must document the full names of the sending technician and the technician's supervising pharmacist. The receiving technician shall immediately reduce the prescription copy to writing and shall review the prescription with the pharmacist on duty. Prior to dispensing, positive identification of the registered pharmacy technician and the pharmacist on duty shall be recorded to identify the responsibility for the receipt of the copy.
6. The pharmacist or registered pharmacy technician sending a prescription copy to a certified technician must document the full names of the receiving technician and the technician's supervising pharmacist. **NOTE:** The Board is waiving the requirement for documented positive ID of the sending technician and pharmacist on duty (see next section.)
7. The registered pharmacy technician and the pharmacist on duty must meet all other applicable rules for the transfer of a prescription copy.

#### Waiving Certain Requirements for Technicians to Send and Receive Copies of Non-Controlled Prescriptions

The Board has authorized the amendment of rule 4729:3-3-04(C)(14)(f) to remove the following requirement:

(f) The pharmacist or certified pharmacy technician sending a prescription copy to a certified technician must document the full names of the receiving technician and the technician's supervising pharmacist. ~~There must be documented positive identification of the sending certified pharmacy technician and the pharmacist on duty who authorized the transfer of the prescription copy.~~

This rule has been filed with JCARR and was scheduled to be effective next month. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the rulemaking process and the need for operational flexibility, the Board hereby waives this requirement until amendments to rule 4729:3-3-04 are finalized.