Waivers for Pharmacy Technician Trainee Supervision

Updated 4/14/2020

In order to address staffing shortages during the COVID-19 outbreak, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy issued the following resolution on the 3:1 pharmacy technician trainee ratio established in rule 4729:3-3-01 of the Administrative Code.

This guidance is being issued in accordance with a Board resolution adopted on March 2, 2020.

An Ohio pharmacy may request a temporary waiver to permit a pharmacist to supervise up to five pharmacy technician trainees at one time (up from the current limit of three).

To request a waiver, the pharmacy must submit a Technician Trainee Supervision Waiver Request. The pharmacy seeking the waiver shall not operate with the 5:1 ratio until receiving approval from the Board. Waivers will be expressly granted or denied with a written response from the Board.

The Board’s Executive Director or the Director’s designee may deny a waiver request if the information provided is inaccurate, incomplete, or the waiver request does not allow pharmacists and pharmacy interns employed by the terminal distributor to practice pharmacy in a safe and effective manner.

If granted a waiver, pharmacy technician trainees are not permitted to conduct any sterile or non-sterile compounding where there are more than three trainees being supervised by one pharmacist.

This guidance shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.