



POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION FOR EMS

Updated 3-31-2016

As defined in rule 4729-5-01(N) of the Ohio Administrative Code: "Positive identification" means a method of identifying an individual who prescribes, administers, or dispenses a dangerous drug. Positive identification includes a manual signature on a hard copy record or report, a biometric method, or a private personal identifier such as a password with an additional secure means of identification such as, a bar code reader, a magnetic card reader, a proximity badge reader, a Board of Pharmacy approved system of randomly generated personal questions, or other effective method approved by the Board of Pharmacy.

Note: Positive identification must be attached to a run sheet, or other drug record, only by the specific individual that personally administered the drug. Another person cannot attach positive identification to drug administrations that they did not personally administer.

Examples of common positive identification practices:

- Handwritten run reports, with the wet-ink signature (i.e., not electronic) of the EMS personnel that administered a dangerous drug.
- Computerized run reports with a Board of Pharmacy approved electronic positive ID system.
- Computerized run reports that are printed out, and signed in wet-ink by the EMS personnel who administered dangerous drug.

How do I know that my computerized system meets positive ID requirements?

If you are unsure whether your system meets positive ID requirements, please have your system vendor send a request for review to ERX@pharmacy.ohio.gov. A Board Compliance Specialist will follow up with the vendor to begin the review process. The email should include the following:

- Name of software
- Name, email and phone number of proper IT contact for programming
- Name and location of all Ohio facilities using the software



When is the best time for you to involve the Board in the process of developing your electronic drug record keeping system?

The Pharmacy Board understands the benefits of electronic drug record keeping systems and wants to aid a hospital in successfully implementing a system. As everyone knows, these systems have a great potential to reduce medication errors, provide enhanced confidentiality of drug records, increase efficiency, decrease paper, enhance accountability, and enhance drug security. So, the earlier the Pharmacy Board can work with you and your electronic record keeping system vendor the better. Please note that the Pharmacy Board does not approve the electronic drug record keeping system, but only the method of achieving "positive identification". However, any patient safety or regulatory concerns due to the electronic drug record that are found during this process will be brought to your attention.

If you have a vendor, please have the vendor submit a request for review to ERX@pharmacy.ohio.gov. The email should include the following:

- Name of software
- Name, email and phone number of proper IT contact for programming
- Name and location of all Ohio facilities using the software

If you are an EMS agency and have not selected a vendor, you may contact ERX@pharmacy.ohio.gov to discuss systems that currently meet the Board's positive ID requirements.