

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO BOARD OF
PHARMACY**

THIS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is between Ohio CVS Stores, LLC (“CVS”) and the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy (“Board”) (defined below).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, CVS is a corporation with its headquarters at 1 CVS Drive, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, 02895;

WHEREAS, CVS represents that it owns and operates approximately 350 retail pharmacies in the State of Ohio, including all of the pharmacies identified or referenced in this Agreement;

WHEREAS, each retail pharmacy owned by CVS and identified or referenced in this Agreement has or had an Ohio terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (“TDDD”) license with the Board;

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.C. 4729.57 and the rules adopted thereunder, the Board has the authority to suspend, revoke, restrict, limit, or refuse to grant or renew any license issued pursuant to R.C. 4729.55 to practice as a TDDD in the State of Ohio. Additionally, R.C. 4729.57 grants the Board the authority to impose a monetary penalty or forfeiture not to exceed in severity any fine designated under the Revised Code for a similar offense or \$1,000 if the acts committed have not been classified as an offense by the Ohio Revised Code;

WHEREAS, the Board has issued twenty two (22) Notices of Opportunity for Hearing, which notices are expressly incorporated into this Agreement (“notice letters”) to the below-listed CVS retail pharmacies due to alleged violations of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code;

WHEREAS, CVS neither admits nor denies the allegations in the notices but, for the purposes of avoiding further administrative action, CVS acknowledges the representations of the Board that the Board has evidence sufficient to sustain the allegations and finds them to violate Chapter 4729. of the Ohio Revised Code and the rules promulgated thereunder in the Ohio Administrative Code, as alleged in the notice letters;

WHEREAS, CVS and the Board desire to settle and resolve their disputes as set forth in this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, agreements, warranties, and representations set forth in this Agreement, constituting consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this Agreement, the following terms shall have the following meanings, regardless of wherein the Agreement those terms are used (i.e.,

in the recitals or in another location):

- a. “Board” means the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy.
- b. “Covered Conduct” means:
 - i. Allegations in the notice letters issued by the Board to the CVS Settlement Stores listed in Section 1(c) of this Agreement resulting in the administrative hearing case numbers listed in Section 1(c) of this Agreement;
 - ii. With regard to Pharmacy #5364, allegations regarding identification of expired drugs in active drug stocks on April 24, 2023, May 23, 2023, and August 14, 2023;
 - iii. With regard to Pharmacy #3455, allegations regarding minimum standards violations identified during an August 2, 2023, on-site inspection and allegations regarding untimely filling of prescriptions identified during an October 24, 2023, on-site inspection; and
 - iv. Allegations regarding compliance with the requirements of Ohio Admin. Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Admin. Code 4729:5-5-01(I).
- c. The “CVS Settlement Stores” include the following retail pharmacies:

Pharmacy Number	Case Number	Date(s) of Notice of Opportunity for Hearing	Location
Pharmacy #3356	Case No. A-2021-0241	August 2, 2023 (Amended), August 12, 2022 (Original)	Painesville
Pharmacy #3321	Case Nos. A-2021-0508 & A-2022-0087	January 5, 2023	Wooster
Pharmacy #6268	Case No. A-2021-0578	December 22, 2022	Steubenville
Pharmacy #8248	Case No. A-2021-0583	August 2, 2023 (Amended), August 17, 2022 (Original)	Massillon
Pharmacy #4101	Case No. A-2022-0046	December 22, 2022	Chagrin Falls
Pharmacy #4351	Case Nos. A-2022-0341 & A-2022-0572	January 11, 2023	Willoughby
Pharmacy #10246	Case Nos. A-2022-0453 & A-2023-0419	August 2, 2023 (Amended), December 22, 2022 (Original) November 28, 2023	Toledo

Pharmacy #3404	Case Nos. A-2022-0508 & A-2023-0362	November 28, 2023, and November 28, 2023	Xenia
Pharmacy #7644	Case No. A-2022-0527	January 3, 2023	Kettering
Pharmacy #2528	Case Nos. A-2022-0533 & A-2022-0671	August 2, 2023 (Amended), March 31, 2023 (Amended), February 9, 2023 (Original) and August 2, 2023 (Amended), March 31, 2023 (Original)	Dayton
Pharmacy #4348	Case No. A-2022-0565	January 11, 2023	Willoughby Hills
Pharmacy #1756	Case No. A-2022-0570	August 2, 2023 (Amended), February 15, 2023 (Original)	Reynoldsburg
Pharmacy #16660	Case No. A-2023-0129	July 24, 2023	Rossford
Pharmacy #6183	Case No. A-2023-0142	August 16, 2023	Springfield
Pharmacy #6153	Case No. A-2023-0152	August 16, 2023	Columbus
Pharmacy #6086	Case No. A-2023-0136	August 16, 2023	Lebanon
Pharmacy #3393	Case No. A-2023-0236	November 28, 2023	Aurora
Pharmacy #3467	Case No. A-2023-0341	January 16, 2024	Dayton
Pharmacy #4401	Case No. A-2023-0491	January 26, 2024	Dayton
Pharmacy #6155	Case No. A-2023-0377	January 26, 2024	Westerville
Pharmacy #3455	n/a	n/a	Coshocton
Pharmacy #5364	n/a	n/a	Germantown

- d. “Released Claims” means any and all administrative claims of any nature that were brought or could have been brought by the Board against the Settlement Stores relating to or arising out of Covered Conduct identified in Section 1(b)(i) through 1(b)(iii) of this Agreement and all claims that could have been brought by the Board against all licensed TDDD locations relating to or arising out of Covered Conduct identified in Section 1(b)(iv) of this Agreement.
- e. “Releasers” means CVS and all of its officials, members, subsidiary or affiliate corporations or other organizations and entities, servants, agents, employees, parents, successors, and assigns, and also each CVS Settlement Store identified in Section 1(c) of this Agreement.
- f. “Selected Pharmacies” means CVS Pharmacy numbers 1756, 2528, 3321, 3455, 6153, 6183, 8248, and 10246.
- g. “Virtual Verification” is a method by which a pharmacist conducts final product verification through viewing of images of the product and labeling in lieu of

physical examination by manual manipulation of the drug product.

2. **Recitals.** The recitals form a part of this Agreement.

3. **Obligations of CVS.**

a. Monetary Penalty:

- i. Within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement, CVS will pay the Board \$1,250,000. For payment purposes, this fine will be attached to the license record for Pharmacy #10246. To pay this fine CVS must log in to www.license.ohio.gov and process the items in the cart. Alternatively, if paying by check, it can be mailed or physically brought to the Board Office M – F; 9:00am – 5:00pm. Checks must be certified, or a cashier’s check, made payable to ‘**Ohio Treasurer of State.**’ CVS and the Board Staff may agree in writing to an alternative payment method. If CVS fails to pay this sum within 30 days of the Effective Date of this Agreement, interest will accrue, beginning on the 31st day after the Effective Date of this Agreement, at the rate of 5% per year.

b. Probation:

- i. The Board will place the Selected Pharmacies on probation for a three-year period, beginning on the Effective Date of this Agreement and ending at 12:00 am EST, on the third anniversary of the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- ii. During this three-year probationary period, the Selected Pharmacies must comply with all laws and regulations governing the practice of pharmacy in the State of Ohio. During the three-year probationary period after the Effective Date, any violation of Section 3(e) of this Agreement, or any state or federal statute or regulation governing the practice of pharmacy in the State of Ohio, by any Selected Pharmacy may result in the issuance of a notice letter and additional disciplinary action, including and up to revocation of the TDDD license with respect to that Selected Pharmacy.

c. Additional Monitoring:

- i. In addition to the penalty specified in Section 3(a)(i) of this Agreement, CVS will pay approximately \$83,333 per year, for each of the next three years after the Effective Date, to the Board to cover the cost of enhanced monitoring by the Board, for a total additional penalty of \$250,000. This cost will be attached to the license record for Pharmacy #10246. To pay this, CVS must log in to www.license.ohio.gov and process the items in the cart. Alternatively, if paying by check, it can be mailed or physically brought to the Board Office M – F; 9:00am – 5:00pm. Checks must be

certified, or a cashier's check, made payable to 'Ohio Treasurer of State.' The first payment of \$83,334 must be received within 30 days of the Effective Date, the second payment of \$83,333 must be received on the first anniversary of the Effective Date, and the final payment of \$83,333 must be received by the second anniversary of the Effective Date. Any late payments will accrue interest beginning on the day after the payment is due, at the rate of 5% per year.

d. Compliance Liaison:

- i. CVS shall appoint an Ohio Compliance Liaison, who shall be a licensed Ohio pharmacist, to act as a channel for communications between the Board and CVS regarding compliance with state and federal pharmacy laws and rules. The appointment of the named Ohio Compliance Liaison is subject to Board approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- ii. For the period of probation, the Compliance Liaison shall be reasonably available to Board inspectors and staff and will receive copies of all pharmacy inspections conducted by the Board. The Compliance Liaison shall attend Board meetings upon request of the Board or the Board's probation committee.

e. Compliance with Proposed Administrative Rules:

- i. Within forty-five (45) days of the Effective Date, the CVS Settlement Stores will comply with proposed Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-02.1, 4729:5-5-02.3, and 4729:5-5-02.4 ("Proposed Rules") (attached as Exhibit A), until such time that the Proposed Rules become final. At that time, all CVS stores in Ohio will comply with the final adopted Rules package.

f. Withdrawal of request for hearing:

- i. CVS withdraws all requests for pending administrative hearings regarding the CVS Settlement Stores that have received notices of opportunity for hearing as listed in Section 1(c) of this Agreement. Each CVS Settlement Store that has received a notice of opportunity for an administrative hearing before the Board hereby waives its right to a hearing and an opportunity to be heard pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Ohio Revised Code and waives any right to an appeal from such a hearing or the lack of such a hearing.
- ii. CVS also agrees not to request an administrative hearing regarding CVS store numbers 3455, and 5364 for any Covered Conduct.

g. Positive Identification:

- i. On December 6, 2021, the Board determined that CVS's electronic method

of capturing positive identification “[did] not meet secure means of personal identification” CVS was ordered by the Board to comply with Ohio’s positive identification rules—including Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04—within six months of the Board’s decision (June 6, 2022). ([R-2022-0289](#))

- ii. On December 5, 2022, the Board rejected CVS’s Proposal on an Alternative Method for Positive Identification which requested that CVS be permitted to capture positive identification via an electronic end-of-day report with a signed paper attestation ([R-2023-0137](#)). The Board did not extend the time, which had lapsed, for CVS to comply with Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04.
- iii. Thus, CVS acknowledges that the Board has determined that CVS’s current system of positive identification is not compliant with the requirements of Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01(I).
- iv. In lieu of the Board pursuing administrative action against CVS for violations of Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, CVS will make changes to its current electronic positive identification system to address compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01(I), at all licensed TDDD locations within fifteen (15) months of the Effective Date of this Agreement. The Board shall make the final determination as to whether CVS is in compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01.
- v. If the Board determines that CVS is not compliant with Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01(I), within fifteen (15) months of the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Board will issue a reasoned determination and may assess an additional fine of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).
- vi. If the Board determines that CVS is still not compliant with Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01(I), within sixteen (16) months of the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Board will issue a reasoned determination and may assess an additional fine of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).
- vii. If the Board determines that CVS is still not compliant with Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01(I), within seventeen (17) months of the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Board will issue a reasoned determination and may assess an additional fine of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).
- viii. If the Board determines that CVS is still not compliant with Ohio

Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01(I), within eighteen (18) months of the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Board will issue a reasoned determination and may assess an additional fine of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). For every month thereafter that the Board determines that CVS is non-compliant with Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01(I), the Board will issue a reasoned determination and may assess an additional one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) each month the Board determines CVS is not compliant.

- ix. CVS may request, and the Board agrees to consider, a tolling of the dates set out in Section 3(g)(iv)–(viii) of this Agreement for documented delays in the completion of the obligation set out in Section 3(g)(iv) of this Agreement caused by government orders; pandemic; or public health emergencies; and any similar events that impact the work or otherwise cause delay beyond the control of CVS and which could not have reasonably been foreseen. CVS may submit any request for a tolling of the timelines, as well as any supporting documentation, to the Board in writing, and the Board agrees to grant any reasonable requests and has sole discretion as to whether a request is reasonable and whether to grant any requested tolling.

h. Virtual Verification:

- i. CVS acknowledges that Virtual Verification is not authorized for use at any terminal distributor of dangerous drug locations in the State of Ohio absent Board approval. CVS represents that it is not currently using Virtual Verification in the State of Ohio and will not begin to utilize such a system unless and until it is authorized to do so by the Board.

4. **Obligations of the Board.**

- a. Consistent with Section 3(g) of this Agreement, the Board will forego acting against CVS for violations of Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, in exchange for CVS ensuring compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01(I), at all licensed terminal distributors of dangerous drugs within fifteen (15) months of the Effective Date of this Agreement as stated in Section 3(g) of this Agreement. On the date that is fifteen months from the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Board may make the determination as to whether CVS is in compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-04, as further defined in Ohio Adm.Code 4729:5-5-01.
- b. The Board agrees to forego issuing notice letters against CVS Pharmacy numbers 3455, and 5364 for Covered Conduct.

5. **Representations and Warranties.**

- a. CVS represents and warrants that:
 - i. It has completely read the agreement and fully understands all such terms, and has been represented by counsel of its choice in the negotiation of this Agreement;
 - ii. It has the full right, power, and authority to enter into this Agreement and to perform all obligations thereunder;
 - iii. It has obtained in writing, as of the Effective Date of this Agreement, consent or permission required from any third party; and
 - iv. The individual executing this Agreement on behalf of CVS has the requisite power and authority to cause this matter to be settled on its own behalf, and on behalf of each and every Releasor and each and every CVS Settlement Store, in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

6. **Releases.**

- a. The Board agrees to release the Released Claims and any liabilities, causes of action, fees (including attorney fees), costs, expenses, or damages (including consequential or incidental damages) arising directly or indirectly from the Released Claims. Releasors agree to release the Board from any liabilities, causes of action, fees (including attorney fees), costs, expenses, or damages (including consequential or incidental damages) arising directly or indirectly from the Released Claims.
- b. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement, CVS has the right to defend against any lawsuit or administrative action that the State of Ohio or the Board, or that any other claimant or plaintiff without limitation, may bring against it after the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- c. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement, CVS has the right to defend against any lawsuit or administrative action that the State of Ohio or the Board, or that any other claimant or plaintiff without limitation, may bring against it with respect to any investigation or civil, criminal, or administrative action against CVS or any CVS Settlement Store based on an alleged violation of any state or federal law or rule other than Covered Conduct.
- d. Nothing in this Agreement binds the State of Ohio or any other state agency, department, board, commission, or other state entity.
- e. Nothing in this Agreement prevents, impairs, or affects the Board's ability or authority to bring any investigation or civil, criminal, or administrative action against CVS or any CVS Settlement Store based on an alleged violation of any

state or federal law or rule other than Covered Conduct.

7. **Inadmissibility**. This Agreement is not, and is not intended to be, admissible against CVS in any suit or action, in any judicial, administrative or other forum, by any claimant or plaintiff other than in an action by the Board to enforce this Agreement.
8. **Binding Agreement**. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and insure to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Board, CVS, and each and every CVS Settlement Store.
9. **Fees and Costs**. Each party to this Agreement hereby waives all rights to seek attorney fees and/or costs in connection with Covered Conduct and agrees to pay its own court fees, expenses, and other costs it incurred as a result of, or that may have arisen out of, the administrative hearings.
10. **Notices**. All notices provided under this Agreement shall be in writing. Notice shall be provided either by: i) email; ii) hand delivery; or iii) registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, and shall be addressed to the following:

If to the Board:

Attn: The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
c/o Legal Department
77 S. High St., 17th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Legal@pharmacy.ohio.gov

If to CVS, any Selected Pharmacies, and/or any CVS Settlement Store:

Attn: Ohio CVS Stores, LLC
c/o Thomas S. Moffatt, President
1 CVS Drive
Mail Code 2325
Woonsocket, RI 02895
RxRegulatory@CVSHelath.Com
Thomas.Moffatt@CVSHealth.Com


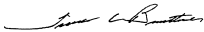
With a copy to:
Ice Miller LLP
250 West Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Attn. Kristina Dahmann
Kristina.Dahmann@IceMiller.Com

11. **Choice of Law and Venue**. This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio, without regard to whether another result

would otherwise be required by application of choice-of-law principles. Any action regarding the enforcement or breach of this Agreement shall be filed as a breach of contract action in a court of competent jurisdiction in Franklin County, Ohio.

12. **Binding Effect.** This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties and their respective personal representatives, heirs, executors, successors and assigns and the parties agree that the Agreement and its terms are supported by full and adequate consideration.
13. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement represents the sole and entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior written and oral negotiations, agreements, and understandings between the parties related to the Covered Conduct. No party to this Agreement has been induced to enter into this Agreement by any representation or inducement except those expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by a written instrument executed by all of the parties to this Agreement.
14. **Severability.** If any of the provisions, terms, or clauses of this Agreement are declared illegal, unenforceable, or ineffective by an authority of competent jurisdiction, those provisions, terms, and clauses shall be deemed severable, such that all other provisions, terms, and clauses of this Agreement shall remain valid and binding upon both Parties. Upon such determination that any term or other provision is invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to modify this Agreement so as to effect the original intent of the parties so the transactions contemplated can be consummated as originally contemplated to the greatest extent possible.
15. **No Party Deemed to be the Drafter.** Neither of the parties hereto shall be deemed to be the drafter of this Agreement or any provision hereof for the purpose of any statute, case law or rule of interpretation or construction that would or might cause any provision to be construed against the drafter hereof.
16. **Amendment; Waiver.** This Agreement shall not be modified in any respect except by a writing executed by CVS and the Board. The waiver by any party of any breach of this Agreement shall not be deemed or construed to be a waiver of any other breach, whether prior, subsequent, or contemporaneous, of this Agreement.
17. **Public Record.** All parties to this Agreement understand that this document is a public record pursuant to R.C. 149.43.
18. **Effective Date.** This Agreement becomes effective immediately on the date of the last signature below.
19. **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be signed in counterparts which, taken together, shall constitute a single binding and enforceable agreement. Copies of signatures that are transmitted electronically via PDF are acceptable in lieu of original signatures.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the dates shown below.

Ohio CVS Stores, L.L.C.	The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
 Thomas S. Moffatt President	 Trina Buettner, R.Ph., President The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy
2/28/24 Date	02.29.2024 Date

4729:5-5-02.1**Provision of Ancillary Services in an Outpatient Pharmacy.**

(A) As used in this rule, “ancillary services” are those services performed by pharmacy personnel that are not directly involved in the dispensation of dangerous drugs. Examples of such services include, but are not limited to, immunizations, drug administration, medication therapy management, disease state management, and refill reminders.

(B) In accordance with division (D) of section 4729.55 of the Revised Code, an outpatient pharmacy licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs shall not establish any productivity or production quotas relating to the provision of ancillary services.

(1) For purposes of this rule, “quota” means a fixed number or formula related to the duties of pharmacy personnel, against which the pharmacy or its agent measures or evaluates the number of times either an individual performs tasks or provides services while on duty.

(2) For purposes of this rule, “quota” does not mean any of the following:

(a) A measurement of the revenue earned by a pharmacy not calculated in relation to, or measured by, the tasks performed, or services provided by pharmacy personnel.

(b) Any evaluation or measurement of the competence, performance, or quality of care provided to patients of pharmacy personnel if the evaluation does not use quotas.

(c) Any performance metric required by state or federal regulators.

(C) This rule does not apply to outpatient pharmacies that are not open to the public (e.g., closed door pharmacies).

4729:5-5-02.1

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Effective:

Five Year Review (FYR) Dates:

Certification

Date

Promulgated Under:	119.03
Statutory Authority:	4729.26
Rule Amplifies:	4729.54, 4729.55

4729:5-5-02.3**Requests for Additional Staff and Reports of Staffing Concerns in an Outpatient Pharmacy.**

- (A) An outpatient pharmacy shall develop a process for pharmacy staff to communicate requests for additional staff or reports of staffing concerns. Requests for additional staff or reports of staffing concerns shall be communicated and documented by the responsible person or pharmacist on duty to the terminal distributor.
- (B) Executed requests for additional staffing or reports of staffing concerns shall be provided to the immediate supervisor of the responsible person or pharmacist on duty, with one copy maintained in the pharmacy for three years for immediate inspection by an agent, inspector, or employee of the board.
- (C) Outpatient pharmacies licensed as terminal distributors of dangerous drugs shall review all requests and reports of concern submitted in accordance with this rule and shall resolve any issues listed in a timely manner to ensure a safe working environment for pharmacy staff as required by section 4729.55 of the Revised Code. A written response to the request or report of concern shall occur within fourteen business days of submission and be communicated to the responsible person or pharmacy staff who submitted the request for additional staffing or report of concern. A copy of this response shall be maintained in the pharmacy for three years for immediate inspection by an agent, inspector, or employee of the board.
- (D) An outpatient pharmacy shall not retaliate or discipline a pharmacist who, in good faith, makes a request for additional staff or reports staffing concerns in accordance with this rule. As used in this rule, retaliation or discipline of an employee includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- (1) Removing or suspending the employee from employment;
 - (2) Withholding from the employee salary increases or employee benefits to which the employee is otherwise entitled;
 - (3) Transferring or reassigning the employee;
 - (4) Denying the employee a promotion that otherwise would have been received;
 - (5) Reducing the employee in pay or position.

4729:5-5-02.3

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Effective:

Five Year Review (FYR) Dates:

Certification

Date

Promulgated Under: 119.03
Statutory Authority: 4729.26
Rule Amplifies: 4729.54, 4729.55

4729:5-5-02.4

Significant Delays in the Provision of Pharmacy Services.

(A) An outpatient pharmacy has a duty to properly dispense lawful prescriptions for dangerous drugs or devices without significant delay.

(1) For purposes of this rule, "significant delay" means a prescription that was submitted to the pharmacy for processing by a prescriber, patient, or caregiver and has yet to be dispensed (e.g., final verification) by a pharmacist as follows:

(a) For new prescriptions: within three business days of receiving the prescription.

(b) For refill prescriptions not generated by a pharmacy auto-refill program: within three business days of receiving the prescription.

(c) For refill prescriptions generated by a pharmacy auto-refill program: within five business days of receiving the prescription.

(2) Receipt of the prescription as described in paragraph (A)(1) of this rule is said to occur:

(a) For new prescriptions: receipt occurs on the day when the prescription is transmitted or submitted to the pharmacy.

(b) For refills on existing prescriptions: receipt occurs on the day when a refill request is submitted to the pharmacy by a patient, caregiver, or prescriber or when a refill request is generated as part of a pharmacy's auto-refill program.

(3) For purposes of this rule, "significant delay" does not mean any of the following:

(a) A prescription that has been submitted to the pharmacy but where there is a documented drug shortage, or the pharmacy documents the drug is not available from the pharmacy's drug distributor.

(b) A prescription that has been submitted to the pharmacy that requires clarification or consultation by the issuing prescriber.

(c) A prescription that has been submitted to the pharmacy that requires prior authorization or is otherwise delayed because of the patient's prescription insurance coverage.

4729:5-5-02.4

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- (d) A prescription that is for a compounded drug product.
 - (e) A prescription that the pharmacist, using their professional judgement, determines is of questionable, doubtful, or suspicious origin.
 - (f) A prescription that, in the pharmacist's professional judgment, if dispensed, cannot be safely provided or may negatively impact patient care.
 - (g) A prescription where the prescriber indicates a "do not fill until" date or similar designation.
 - (h) A prescription where the patient, caregiver, or issuing prescriber has communicated to the pharmacy that dispensing may occur beyond the period described in paragraph (A)(1) of this rule.
 - (i) A prescription where the patient, caregiver, or issuing prescriber has requested a transfer to another pharmacy.
 - (j) A prescription where the pharmacy has experienced any of the following:
 - (i) A natural disaster (fire, flood, etc.), civil unrest, or human made disaster;
 - (ii) An outbreak of a pandemic illness or the declaration of a state or federal public health emergency;
 - (iii) A loss of power; or
 - (iv) An unplanned information technology system outage.
 - (k) Any other circumstance as determined by the board.
- (B) Each prescription that experiences a significant delay, as defined in paragraph (A) of this rule, shall be considered a violation of this rule and shall subject the outpatient pharmacy to disciplinary action in accordance with rule 4729:5-4-01 of the Administrative Code.
- (C) Immediately upon discovery or at the request of an agent, inspector, or employee of the board, a pharmacy experiencing a significant delay shall implement one or more of the following remediation measures to dispense all prescriptions that are experiencing a significant delay:
- (1) Limiting pharmacy hours (e.g., dark hours);
 - (2) Transferring prescriptions to another pharmacy, upon patient consent;

4729:5-5-02.4

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(3) Increasing pharmacy staff; or

(4) Any other strategy that is mutually agreed upon by the outpatient pharmacy and the agent, inspector, or employee of the board.

(D) As part of the remediation process required in paragraph (C) of this rule, the outpatient pharmacy shall implement a process that triages lifesaving and life-sustaining medications that are experiencing a significant delay.

(E) As used in this rule, "business day" means any day, excluding holidays, where the pharmacy is open for business.

(F) An outpatient pharmacy shall only provide auto-refills of a prescription upon the authorization of the patient or the patient's caregiver.

(1) The pharmacy shall maintain documentation indicating the patient or the patient's caregiver has enrolled in the pharmacy's auto-refill program.

(2) Consent for enrollment in the pharmacy's auto-refill program may be captured electronically, verbally by pharmacy staff, or in writing.

(3) The pharmacy shall maintain a record of consent in the patient's profile, or another system maintained by the pharmacy, in a readily retrievable manner. As part of this record, the pharmacy shall document the date the patient or caregiver consented to enrollment in the pharmacy's auto-refill program.

(4) The pharmacy shall discontinue enrollment in an auto-refill program upon the request of the patient or the patient's caregiver.

4729:5-5-02.4

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Effective:

Five Year Review (FYR) Dates:

Certification

Date

Promulgated Under:	119.03
Statutory Authority:	4729.26
Rule Amplifies:	4729.54, 4729.55



**STATE OF
OHIO**
BOARD OF PHARMACY

-THIS IS A RED INK STAMP-
I certify this to be a true and exact copy of
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Ohio State Board of Pharmacy.
Steven W. Schierholt
Steven W. Schierholt, Esq., Executive Dir.
Date: Jan 05, 2023
-MUST HAVE BOARD SEAL TO BE OFFICIAL-

**AMENDED NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING
PROPOSAL TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST LICENSEE**

IN THE MATTER OF:

**CASE NO. A-2021-0508
A-2022-0087**

CVS Pharmacy #3321
c/o Noah Sackitey, R.Ph.
2284 Back Orrville Road
Wooster, OH 44691

License No. 02-0129150

January 5, 2023

Dear CVS Pharmacy #3321 and Mr. Noah Sackitey, R.Ph.:

You are hereby notified, in accordance with the provisions of Section 119.07 of the Ohio Revised Code the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy (Board) proposes to take action against your license as a Terminal Distributor of Dangerous Drugs (TDDD) under authority of Section 4729.57 of the Revised Code.

JURISDICTION

1. Pursuant to section 4729.57 of the Ohio Revised Code and the rules adopted thereunder, the Board has the authority to suspend, revoke, restrict, limit, or refuse to grant or renew any license issued pursuant to section 4729.55 of the ORC to practice as a TDDD in the state of Ohio. Additionally, Section 4729.57 of the Ohio Revised Code grants the Board the authority to impose a monetary penalty or forfeiture not to exceed in severity any fine designated under the Revised Code for a similar offense or \$1,000 if the acts committed have not been classified as an offense by the ORC.
2. CVS Pharmacy #3321, located at 2284 Back Orrville Road, Wooster, OH 44691, has an active TDDD license with the Board under license number 02-0129150, which lists Noah Sackitey, R.Ph. as the Responsible Person.

ALLEGATIONS

1. From on or about February 3, 2021 to on or about May 18, 2021, CVS Pharmacy #3321, located 2284 Back Orrville Road, Wooster, Ohio, allowed a pharmacy technician trainee to administer immunizations they were not qualified to administer. The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Emergency Preparedness Act regarding COVID-19 pandemic gave "Qualified Pharmacy Technicians" the authorization to administer childhood as well as the COVID-19 vaccine. The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy created a guidance document and issued it on January 19, 2021, "Pharmacy Technician Administration of Vaccines during the COVID-19 Pandemic." It states a pharmacy technician trainee does

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not qualify as a “Qualified Pharmacy Technician.” The unqualified technician administered the following immunizations during this time:

- a. Twenty Shingrix (shingles) vaccines.
 - b. One Pneumovax-23 (pneumonia) vaccine.
 - c. One Prevnar (pneumococcal conjugate) vaccine.
 - d. Four flu (inactivated) vaccines.
2. On or about January 12, 2022, agents of the Board arrived at CVS #3321, located at 2284 Back Orrville Road, Wooster, Ohio to conduct an inspection. The following issues were found:
- a. At 3:57pm the pharmacy was staffed with one pharmacist, one registered pharmacy technician, five pharmacy technician trainees, and one pharmacy support personnel. The pharmacist was verifying prescriptions in QV (Verification). Three pharmacy technician trainees were filling prescriptions from QP (Production). One pharmacy technician trainee was assisting customers with COVID self-testing in the drive thru. The registered pharmacy technician was assisting customers with new prescriptions and entering prescriptions into RxConnect. One pharmacy technician trainee was assisting customers at the front counter of the pharmacy.
 - b. The pharmacy had 120 prescriptions (8 pages of 15 prescriptions per page) in QT (Triage). There were 540 prescriptions (36 pages of 15 prescriptions per page) in QP (Production). There were 1170 prescriptions (78 pages of 15 prescriptions per page) in QV (Verification).
 - c. The pharmacist on duty was a pharmacy manager from another store. She had come in to assist in staffing the pharmacy. The pharmacy had to be closed intermittently due to the lack of a pharmacist. The pharmacy could be closed for the day or before or after lunch due to the lack of a pharmacist. The pharmacist on duty states they are actively triaging prescriptions to ensure lifesaving, life-sustaining medications are filled in a timely manner.
 - d. CVS #3321 did not have an active responsible person with the Board when the inspection occurred. The pharmacy was without a responsible person from November 15, 2021 until February 4, 2022.
 - e. Multiple issues of cleanliness were observed in the pharmacy. The issues included the following:
 - i. Numerous pills were observed on the floor of the pharmacy.
 - ii. Numerous pills were found on the floor of the ScriptPro automatic vial filler.
 - iii. Numerous medications found to be stored on the floor of the pharmacy.

- iv. Multiple baskets of medications were visible and within reach of the public. They were stored next to data entry window behind a moveable plexiglass divider on the pharmacy counter.
 - v. Pharmacy distribution totes were in the pharmacy needed to be unpacked. There were multiple totes dating back to January 5, 2022.
 - vi. The Pharmacy FillMaster reconstitution device was observed to be dirty. The tip of the FillMaster had an unknown substance stuck to it.
- f. During inspection SOBP agents observed five trainees actively working in the pharmacy with only one pharmacist supervising. A waiver had not been filed with the Board to allow five trainees to work under the supervision of one pharmacist.

POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF LAW

1. Such conduct as set forth in the Allegations Section, if proven, constitutes a violation of Section 4729.95(C) of the ORC, No terminal distributor of dangerous drugs shall knowingly allow any person employed or otherwise under the control of the person who owns, manages, or conducts the terminal distributor to violate division (A) of 4729.95 of the ORC, which states: No person who is not a pharmacist, pharmacy intern, registered pharmacy technician, certified pharmacy technician, or pharmacy technician trainee shall knowingly engage in any of the activities listed in section 4729.91 of the Revised Code in a location licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs, a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable by a maximum penalty of \$4,000.
2. Such conduct as set forth in Allegations Section, if proven, constitutes a violation of each of the following divisions of Section 4729.55 of the ORC, as effective March 22, 2020 and March 31, 2021, TDDD license requirements, each violation punishable by a maximum penalty of \$1,000:
 - a. A pharmacist, licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs, animal shelter licensed with the state board of pharmacy under section 4729.531 of the Revised Code, or a laboratory as defined in section 3719.01 of the Revised Code will maintain supervision and control over the possession and custody of dangerous drugs that may be acquired by or on behalf of the applicant, ORC 4729.55(B); and/or
 - b. Adequate safeguards are assured to prevent the sale or other distribution of dangerous drugs by any person other than a pharmacist or licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs, ORC 4729.55(C); and/or
 - c. Adequate safeguards are assured that the applicant will carry on the business of a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs in a manner that allows pharmacists and pharmacy interns employed by the terminal distributor to practice pharmacy in a safe and effective manner, ORC 4729.55(D).
3. Such conduct as set forth in Allegations Section, if proven, constitutes a violation of each of the following divisions of Section 4729.57(B) of the ORC, as effective September 29, 2017, each violation punishable by a maximum penalty of \$1,000:

- a. Violating any rule of the board, ORC Section 4729.57(B)(2); and/or
 - b. Violating any provision of this chapter, ORC Section 4729.57(B)(3); and/or
 - c. Ceasing to satisfy the qualifications of a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs set forth in section 4729.55 of the Revised Code, ORC Section 4729.57(B)(7); and/or
 - d. Any other cause for which the board may impose discipline as set forth in rules adopted under section 4729.26 of the Revised Code, ORC Section 4729.57(B)(10).
4. Such conduct as set forth in the Allegations Section, if proven, each constitutes a violation of the following sections of Rule 4729:5-2-01 of the OAC, Responsible Person of a Terminal Distributor, as effective March 1, 2019, each violation punishable by a maximum penalty of \$1,000:
- a. The responsible person shall be responsible for the practice of the profession of pharmacy, including, but not limited to, the supervision and control of dangerous drugs as required in division (B) of section 4729.55 of the Revised Code, adequate safeguards as required in division (C) of section 4729.55 of the Revised Code, security and control of dangerous drugs and maintaining all drug records otherwise required, OAC Rule 4729:5-2-01(A)(2); and/or
 - b. The person to whom the terminal distributor of dangerous drugs license has been issued and all pharmacists on duty are responsible for compliance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and rules governing the distribution of drugs and the practice of pharmacy, OAC Rule 4729:5-2-01(A)(3).
 - c. The responsible person to whom the terminal distributor of dangerous drugs license has been issued and all licensed health professionals on duty are responsible for compliance with all state and federal laws, regulations, and rules governing the distribution of dangerous drugs, OAC 4729:5-2-01(E)(4); and/or
 - d. The responsible person shall be responsible for ensuring the terminal distributor of dangerous drugs requirements are met, including, but not limited to, the supervision and control of dangerous drugs as required in division (B) of section 4729.55 of the Revised Code, adequate safeguards as required in division (C) of section 4729.55 of the Revised Code, security and control of dangerous drugs and maintaining all drug records otherwise required, OAC 4729:5-2-01(E)(6).
5. Such conduct as set forth in Allegations Section, if proven, each constitutes a violation of the following sections of Rule 4729:5-4-01 of the OAC, as effective March 1, 2019, each violation punishable by a maximum penalty of \$1,000:
- a. Violating any rule of the board, OAC Rule 4729:5-4-01(B)(2); and/or
 - b. Violating any provision of Chapter 4729. of the Revised Code, OAC Rule 4729:5-4-01(B)(3); and/or
 - c. Ceasing to satisfy the qualifications of a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs set forth in section 4729.55 of the Revised Code, OAC Rule 4729:5-4-01(B)(7); and/or

- d. The method used by the terminal distributor to store, possess or distribute dangerous drugs poses serious harm to other, OAC Rule 4729:5-4-01(B)(25); and/or
 - e. The method used by the terminal distributor to store, possess, or distribute dangerous drugs poses serious harm to others, OAC Rule 4729:5-4-01(B)(25).
6. Such conduct as set forth in paragraphs (3)(e)(i), (3)(e)(ii), (3)(e)(iii), (3)(e)(iv), (3)(e)(v), and (3)(e)(vi) of the Allegations Section, if proven, each constitutes a violation of Rule 4729:5-5-02(E)(2) of the OAC, Minimum Standards for an outpatient pharmacy, all areas where drugs and devices are stored and prepared shall be dry, well-lit, well-ventilated, and maintained in a clean, sanitary and orderly condition. Storage areas shall be maintained at temperatures and conditions which will ensure the integrity of the drugs prior to their dispensing or administering as stipulated by the USP/NF and/or the manufacturer's or distributor's labeling, as effective December 1, 2020, each violation punishable by a maximum penalty of \$1,000.

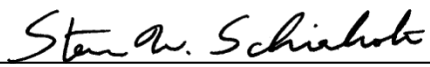
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 119. and 4729. of the Ohio Revised Code, that you are entitled to a hearing before the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, if you request such a hearing within thirty 30 days of the date of the mailing of this notice.

The Board is in receipt of your request for a hearing dated September 13, 2022; no additional request for a hearing is necessary. Per the previous scheduling notice, your hearing is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2023.

YOU ARE FURTHER ADVISED that if there is no request for such a hearing received by the Board on or prior to the 30th day following the mailing of this notice, the State of Board of Pharmacy, upon consideration of the aforementioned allegations against you, may take action without such a hearing, and may adopt a final order that contains the board's findings. In the final order, the board may impose any of the sanctions listed in division RC 4729.57(A).

If you have questions regarding the Chapter 119. Administrative Hearing process, please e-mail your questions to legal@pharmacy.ohio.gov or call the Board office at 614-466-4143 and ask for the legal department.

BY ORDER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY



Steven W. Schierholt, Esq., Executive Director

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