



e-News August 2025

New OARRS Features Aim to Improve Patient Care

Over the next month, the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) will be rolling out some exciting new features aimed at improving patient care. These new features include the following:

- **8/28/2025: Updates to OARRS Patient Alerts (see below for more information)**
- **9/4/2025: Launch of MOUD Clarity** - OARRS Patient Reports will include information on patients who may be experiencing MOUD treatment discontinuation. This information is intended to support a more comprehensive assessment by healthcare professionals, which may lead to more timely care coordination efforts. For more information, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/MOUDclarity
- **9/24/2025: Launch of Co-Rx Clarity** - OARRS Patient Reports will include information on patients who may meet criteria in the Ohio Administrative Code that require a provider to offer a prescription for an overdose reversal medication (such as naloxone). For more information, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/CoRxClarity

Updates to OARRS Patient Alerts – Effective 8/28/2025

Patient Alerts (also referred to as Clinical Alerts) are an OARRS enabled enhancement that provides alerts to prescribers to indicate that one of their patients has met or exceeded a threshold as determined by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy.

These alerts are meant to aid healthcare professionals in identifying patients who may have higher or unexpected exposure to controlled substances and consider a supportive conversation between the provider and patient.

IMPORTANT: Patient Alerts are not meant to indicate illegal or inappropriate behavior and are not meant to replace clinical decision-making.

Starting August 28, 2025, OARRS users will notice some updates to Patient Alerts in OARRS.

Consolidated Prescriber & Dispenser Threshold Alert

When a patient receives controlled substance prescriptions from multiple prescribers, drug interactions can occur, especially if providers are unaware of the other medications the patient has received.

The **Prescriber & Dispenser Threshold** alert occurs when a patient fills controlled substance prescriptions written by a specified number of prescribers, filled at a specified number of pharmacies, within a specified amount of time. The number of prescribers, pharmacies, and timeframe are determined by the PDMP.

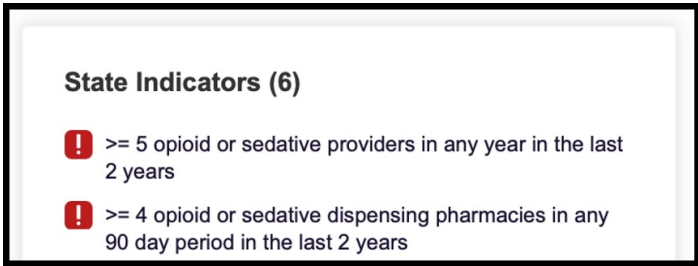
On August 28, 2025, the Patient Alerts for prescriber and dispenser thresholds will be consolidated into a single indicator when the patient receives a prescription for a controlled substance from **three** or more prescribers and **three** or more dispensers in 90 day time period (see Figure 1).

Prior to this change, there were two separate Patient Alerts indicating a patient had received opioid or sedative prescriptions from five or more providers or from four or more pharmacies in the previous two years (see Figure 2).

Figure 1. New Prescriber Threshold Alerts Effective 8/28/2025



Figure 2. Prescriber and Dispenser Threshold Alerts Prior to 8/28/2025



Daily Active MME Threshold

Prescribing the lowest effective dose of opioids can be an effective strategy to reduce the risk of overdose or development of opioid use disorder, and providers should use caution when increasing a patient’s daily opioid dose above the recommended daily morphine milligram equivalent (MME) dosage unless there are specific extenuating circumstances. The **Daily Active MME Threshold** alert occurs when a patient receives a cumulative daily opioid dosage greater than 50 MME (see Figure 3).

Prior to this change, a Patient Alert would appear if a patient exceeded a total MME of 100 and a 40 MME/day average (see Figure 4).

Figure 3. Daily Active MME Threshold Effective 8/28/2025

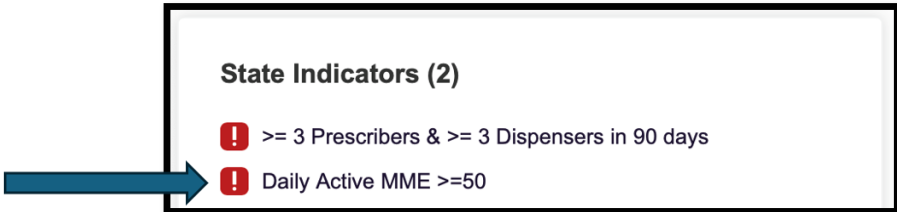
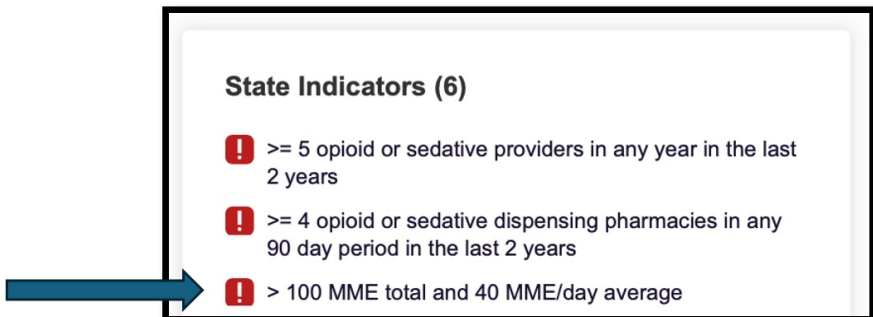


Figure 4. Daily Active MME Threshold Prior to 8/28/2025



Pharmacist and Intern Renewal Reminder

All active pharmacists and pharmacy interns with an expiration date of September 15, 2025 will need to file a renewal application and submit the required renewal fee by the expiration date. Renewal applications opened on Thursday, July 17 and emails were sent out to licensees. For information on renewal continuing education requirements, please review [this guidance document on the Board's website](#).

Reminder to Terminal Distributors of Dangerous Drugs (TDDD's): Please verify with your employed pharmacists and interns that their licenses are renewed by September 15.

Licensure Requirements for Investigational New Drugs and Products

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy recently formalized its policy regarding the licensure requirements for those engaged in clinical trials under [investigational new drug applications](#) (INDs).

For more information on these licensure requirements, the Board developed this guidance document: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/IND.

To ensure no disruption to research, the Board adopted a resolution on 8/4/2025 that grants those engaged in clinical trials of an investigational new drug or product until February 4, 2026 to become appropriately licensed.

For more information and a copy of the resolution, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/IND.

Reminder: Board is Offering Free Fentanyl Test Strips and Naloxone Brochures to All Ohio Licensees

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy continues to offer to all licensees no-cost fentanyl test strips and educational handouts in partnership with the Office of Governor Mike DeWine, RecoveryOhio, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Ohio Department of Health. Each licensee can request up to two boxes of fentanyl strips per order (100 strips per box), and the Board's educational handouts are also available in English and Spanish (100 handouts per pack). Strips will be available until supplies last and may be reordered by the same location if running low.

Orders for fentanyl test strips and handouts must be placed online using the following link: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/FTSorder.

In addition to test strips, licensees may request naloxone overdose and recognition [brochures](#) while supplies last. Use the following link to order: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/nalbrochure.

DUE TO GRANT FUNDING RESTRICTIONS, WE ARE ONLY ABLE TO OFFER STRIPS TO LICENSEES LOCATED IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

For Stakeholder Comment – Recission of Naloxone TDDD Requirements

Date Issued: 8/29/2025

Effective April 6, 2023, ORC [3715.50](#) removed most Ohio Board of Pharmacy licensure requirements for locations that store overdose reversal medications (such as naloxone) for use in emergency situations and for distribution through an automated mechanism (such as a vending machine). Additionally, this section of the Ohio Revised Code implemented specific requirements for all persons maintaining overdose reversal medications for use in emergency situations and for distribution through an automated mechanism.

With these standards in place, the Board is proposing the rescission of previous requirements specifically for terminal distributors of dangerous drugs (OAC 4729:5-3-19).

Comments on the proposed rescission will be accepted until the close of business on **Monday, September 15, 2025**. Please send all comments to the following email address: rulecomments@pharmacy.ohio.gov

For more information, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/NalRes

Ohio Launches New Suicide Prevention Toolkit

As part of [Suicide Prevention Month](#), Governor Mike DeWine and RecoveryOhio have launched the [Ohio Suicide Prevention Toolkit](#), a resource designed to help communities, schools, workplaces, and organizations take meaningful steps toward preventing suicide and supporting mental health.

In 2023, more than 1,700 Ohioans died by [suicide](#). It remains the second-leading cause of death among youth ages 10–14 and young adults ages 20–34. The new toolkit provides practical resources to help change these outcomes by raising awareness, recognizing warning signs, and connecting people to care.

The toolkit was developed through a statewide collaboration among [RecoveryOhio](#), the [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#), the [Ohio Department of Health](#), the [Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation](#), and [NAMI Ohio](#).

The toolkit includes:

- Support and training resources for workplaces, faith communities, veterans, and underserved populations.
- Downloadable fact sheets, videos, and links to mental health resources.
- Tailored messages for youth, parents, older adults, men, veterans, and first responders.

The Ohio Suicide Prevention Toolkit is free and available to all. Community organizations, schools, and businesses are encouraged to access and share it widely to support prevention efforts throughout the state.

To access the toolkit, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/know-our-programs-and-services/suicide-prevention-toolkit>.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call, text, or chat 988 for free, confidential, 24/7 support.

RecoveryOhio, OhioMHAS Release Recovery Month Toolkit

Since 1989, [National Recovery Month](#) has promoted recovery and celebrated the resilience of those in recovery. In support of this mission, [OhioMHAS](#) and [RecoveryOhio](#) have partnered to provide a [free digital toolkit](#) for communities to increase public awareness of recovery, dismantle the stigma around mental health and addiction, and provide resources for those in recovery. The toolkit includes digital resources, social media shareables, and [Governor](#)

[DeWine's proclamation](#).

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) also shared its national [2025 Recovery Month toolkit](#). Please join us in celebrating those in recovery and encouraging others to begin their own journey of recovery!

Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Month Events

The Ohio Department of Health has published a feature story highlighting several local events being held across the state in recognition of Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Month. The article showcases the incredible work of community partners and provides details on upcoming opportunities to honor lives lost, support recovery, and raise awareness about substance use and harm reduction efforts.

You can view the article here: <https://odh.ohio.gov/media-center/feature-stories/overdose-awareness-day-and-recovery-month-082125>

Be Vigilant - Watch Out for Scammers!

BOARD STAFF DO NOT ASK FOR MONEY OVER THE PHONE OR VIA EMAIL TO RESOLVE PENDING INVESTIGATIONS. WHEN IN DOUBT, PLEASE CONTACT THE BOARD IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE THE TARGET OF A SCAM.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy continues to learn that licensees are being targeted by scammers who claim to work for various governmental agencies (Board of Pharmacy, DEA, FBI, Department of Justice, etc.) to obtain money from the target. The Board strongly encourages licensees to be alert to avoid scammers.

Scammers may try to initiate contact via phone calls, emails, faxes, and letters purporting to originate from various state and federal agencies that include allegations of drug trafficking and threats of suspension against the target's license.

Board of Pharmacy investigators will not ask for fine payment or personal/sensitive information over the phone and will never contact licensees via fax. As a reminder, administrative fines issued by the Board are not paid via gift cards or cryptocurrency. If the Board of Pharmacy is conducting an investigation and that individual faces action against their license, they will receive an official notice of opportunity for a hearing either via certified mail, personal service, or electronic registered mail.

If you are contacted by a scammer, please report this information using the Board's online complaint form: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/complaint. Additionally, reports should be made to your local law enforcement agency.

If you receive any suspicious calls or correspondence purporting to be from the Board of Pharmacy, we encourage you to call (614-466-4143) or email (contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov) the Board to confirm its legitimacy.



People call, text, and chat the 988 Lifeline to talk about a lot of emotional needs—not just thoughts of suicide. Whatever your reason, the #988Lifeline is there to help. There is hope.



Ohio Board of Pharmacy
Mike DeWine, *Governor* | **Steven W. Schierholt**, *Executive Director*

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