

OHIO BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

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From the Director's Desk

Dear Ohio Pharmacists,
The Ohio Board of Pharmacy remains concerned about reports and investigations involving clinics and other licensees purchasing counterfeit drugs for administration to patients. All pharmacies, clinics, and other health care facilities, even those not licensed by the Board, are required by law to purchase from licensed drug distributors (such as wholesalers, manufacturers, and outsourcing facilities) and pharmacies, with limited exceptions.

To ensure that a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs (TDDD) is purchasing from an authorized seller, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 4729:5-3-04 requires the TDDD to verify that the seller is licensed by the Board prior to the initial purchase

and annually thereafter. Verification should be conducted using Ohio's eLicense system (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/elicense) and must be documented by the licensee (eg, saving the license verification electronically from the eLicense system).

As a reminder, licensees **cannot** purchase drugs from the following sources:

- Facebook and other social media sites
- Internet sellers, unless they are appropriately licensed with the Board
- Other clinics or prescribers, unless both clinics are under the same ownership (This would be considered an intracompany transfer – see OAC 4729:5-3-09.)



From the Director's Desk

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Purchasing from unlicensed sources endangers the health and safety of your patients and is considered a violation of Ohio law. The Board takes such violations seriously and, in doing so, may subject the licensee to administrative action, including immediate license suspension and/or criminal sanctions.

To help licensees avoid purchasing counterfeit medications, the Board developed the following resource: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/counterfeitpc.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Schierholt, Esq
Executive Director
Ohio Board of Pharmacy

Board Launches Dashboard Tracking Pharmacy Trends Across State

Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steven W. Schierholt announced the launch of a new dashboard to track the status of pharmacies across the state and licensing trends.

The Ohio Pharmacy Access dashboard utilizes Board licensing data to provide users with a visualization of where pharmacy openings and closures occur and offers insights into how closures impact access to pharmacy services in Ohio.

"Having a pharmacy nearby is critical to the health and safety of Ohioans, especially those who depend on prescription medications every day," said Schierholt. "As the pharmacy market evolves in Ohio, it is imperative that we have a tool to help policymakers and local

community leaders alike stay up to speed and even get ahead of emerging trends," he said.

This new dashboard is a convenient tool that aims to provide insights into where gaps may exist, with the ultimate goal of improving access to pharmacies to as many Ohioans as possible, noted Schierholt.

The new dashboard – available at Pharmacy.Ohio.gov/Trends – allows users to view data on pharmacy access around the state, including the following:

- **Pharmacy Trends:** Provides an analysis of openings and closings of pharmacies by type (eg, independent, small chain, and large chain).
- **Pharmacy Closure Comparisons:** Analyzes

pharmacy closures based on certain characteristics (urban/rural, pharmacy type, and social vulnerability index).

- **Pharmacy Deserts:** Provides a geographic visualization of areas that lack access to pharmacy services (sometimes referred to as "pharmacy deserts") by census blocks.
 - Rural census blocks mean not having a pharmacy within 10 miles.
 - Urban census blocks mean not having a pharmacy within one mile.

The dashboard will be updated monthly. It was created through a partnership between the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, the InnovateOhio Platform, and the Ohio Department of Health.

Reminder: Suspicious Order Monitoring Requirements and Reporting Process

This serves as a general reminder to ensure compliance with the Board's suspicious order monitoring and reporting obligations. For more information on these requirements, visit www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/suspicious.

The requirements apply to the following license holders:

- 1) wholesale distributors of dangerous drugs;
- 2) virtual wholesalers;
- 3) manufacturers of dangerous drugs; and

- 4) outsourcing facilities.

Please be mindful of the importance of reporting suspicious orders. The Board appreciates your cooperation and adherence to the reporting requirements.

Report of Theft or Significant Loss of Dangerous Drugs and Prescription Drug Documents Page Updates

The Board recently made some upgrades to the Report of Theft or Significant Loss of Dangerous Drugs and Prescription Drug Documents page (regarding Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Form 106). Please bookmark the new web address:

<https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/DEA106>. The page's new updates are explained in more detail below.

New Visuals

When viewing previously submitted reports, you may notice rows highlighted in different colors.

Rows highlighted in yellow denote that the report is incomplete and remains unreported to the Board. Rows highlighted in orange denote that an initial notification report is more than 30 days old. This means the report activity type needs to be updated, or the report needs to be deleted.

Email Notifications

Starting on April 15, 2025, you will begin receiving email notifications for any initial notifications greater than 30 days old. Per Ohio rules, initial notifications do not constitute the complete submission of a theft or loss report, and theft or loss reports must be submitted within 30 days.

Data Retention

Data will be archived after six years. Reports more than six years old will no longer be viewable.

Deleting Reports

When deleting reports, you will now be prompted to select either "duplicate report" or "retract report" as the reason for deletion.

Master Accounts

A master account allows one login for all license numbers. This is beneficial if the reporting is done at the corporate office level instead of the pharmacy level. If you would like to have a master account set up, please email dea106reporting@pharmacy.ohio.gov.

Contingency Stock License Accounts

If your license number is tied to serviced facilities, you will now be directed to a page where you can file reports for any of the serviced facilities.

Confidential Reports

If you are logged in to a master or contingency stock license

Report of Theft or Significant Loss of Dangerous Drugs and Prescription Drug Documents Page Updates

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account, there is now an option to make the report confidential. This feature should be used if either an individual who is usually responsible for reporting a theft

or significant loss or an individual who can access this system on behalf of the licensee is considered a possible suspect.

Please email dea106reporting@pharmacy.ohio.gov with any questions.

2025 CPE Law Quiz

The Board is pleased to provide a new **2025 continuing pharmacy education (CPE) law quiz** for pharmacists and registered pharmacy technicians. We encourage participants to save

a copy of the test and research the answers before continuing to the test. You will have only two attempts to pass the quiz. The Board does not submit passing results to CPE Monitor®. Please

keep a copy of any certification awarded for passing this quiz. Successful completion of the quiz provides one contact hour (0.1 CEU) of Board-approved jurisprudence.

Inspection Guide Update

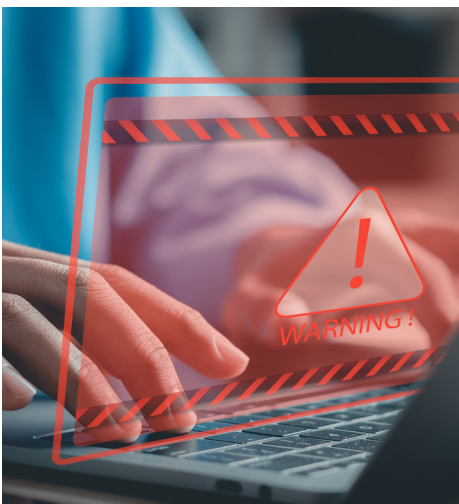
The Board has made an update to the inspection guides on its website. All of the inspection guides can be found [here](#).

The Discontinuation of Business sections of the inspection guides were updated to remind licensees

that businesses are required to submit a Written Notice of Discontinuing Business (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/DCB) form to the Board within 30 days of their business closing, as well as remove the mention of a waiver

for extraordinary circumstances, as that is no longer applicable.

Licensees may email contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov with any questions about this update.



Licensee Scam Warning

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

USA Today recently published an article detailing an elaborate scam targeting a pharmacist from Ohio: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2024/03/24/professionals-with-licenses-targeted-scams-online-phone/72094706007/>.

Scammers may try to initiate contact via phone calls, emails,

Licensee Scam Warning

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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 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 or by personal service.

If you are contacted by a scammer, please report this information by 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, we encourage you to call (614/466-4143) or email (contact@pharmacy.ohio.gov) the Board to confirm its legitimacy.

As licensees become more vigilant about looking out for scams, the Board would like to remind all licensees that official electronic registered mail from the Board will sometimes have a **Registered Email | Certified Delivery** banner across the top, like in the image below. Emails with this banner are official correspondence from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy.



REGISTERED EMAIL™ | CERTIFIED DELIVERY

This is a Registered Email™ message from Jennifer.Nelson@pharmacy.ohio.gov

Good Afternoon,

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy (Board) is contacting you regarding your scheduled June 3, 2024, probation appearance. The June Board Meeting will be held at the offices of the **State Board of Pharmacy, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6126**; however, you will have the option of participating in your Probation Appearance in-person or remotely.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy News is published by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation® (NABPF®) to promote compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of NABPF or the Board unless expressly so stated.

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