



Board of Pharmacy

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Remote Dispensing Pharmacy Applications are Live

On April 6, 2026, rules on the operation of remote dispensing pharmacies will go into effect (OAC 4729:5-18). A remote dispensing pharmacy is a pharmacy where the dispensing of drugs, patient counseling, and other pharmacist care is provided through a telepharmacy system. To view the rules in full, click on the links below.

- **4729:5-18-01: Definitions - remote dispensing pharmacies.**
- **4729:5-18-02: Licensure of remote dispensing pharmacies.**
- **4729:5-18-03: Demonstration of need.**
- **4729:5-18-04: Operation of a remote dispensing pharmacy.**
- **4729:5-18-05: Personnel requirements.**
- **4729:5-18-06: Technology requirements for a telepharmacy system.**
- **4729:5-18-07: Security requirements for a remote dispensing pharmacy.**

For more information, including the requirements for operating a remote dispensing pharmacy and how to to apply, visit: <https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Licensing/TDDD-RDP>.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration Guidance Document Applicability in Ohio

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy (Board) has received inquiries regarding how U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance impacts enforcement in Ohio. To assist licensees, the Board developed a guidance document that clarifies its position on this topic. This guidance can be accessed by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/FDAguide.

Inspection Guide Update - Controlled Substance Inventories

The Board recently received updated guidance from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regarding the requirements for conducting controlled substance inventories. According to the DEA, controlled substances shall be deemed to be "on hand" if they are in the possession of or under the control of the TDDD, including controlled substances that are personally furnished or dispensed but not yet distributed to the patient (e.g., prescriptions waiting to be picked up), complimentary supplies, samples, and expired or adulterated controlled substances awaiting disposal.

All applicable inspection guides were updated on March 27, 2026, to reflect this updated guidance. The Board's inspection guides can be accessed by visiting: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/inspection.

Important Clarification: Pharmacies Serving as Alternate Locations

Effective April 1, 2026, the Board is rescinding the current pick-up station rule (OAC [4729:5-5-14](#)) and replacing it with OAC [4729:5-3-24](#) - Dispensing Dangerous Drugs to an Alternate Location.

To assist licensees, the Board updated all applicable inspection guides with a new section (Dispensing Dangerous Drugs to an Alternate Location). To access the Board's inspection guides, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/inspection

Please be advised that pharmacies **do not** have to demonstrate that there is clear and convincing evidence that the delivery of a dangerous drug directly to a patient would result in either of the following scenarios in order to dispense medications to **another pharmacy** that is serving as an alternate location:

(a) Danger or harm to public health or safety; or

(b) Danger or harm to the patient without increased involvement by a health care professional in the patient's drug therapy.

NOTE: This standard still applies to non-pharmacies that serve as alternate locations (e.g., clinics, med spas, health departments, etc.). Pharmacies that dispense dangerous drugs to an alternate location that is **not a pharmacy** are still required to ensure that they are meeting this standard.

Please be advised that pharmacies serving as alternate locations under OAC 4729:5-3-24 are still required to comply with all other requirements of the rule. The rule will also be revised to reflect this guidance in the coming months.

DEA Prescription Drug Takeback Day is April 25, 2026

Saturday, April 25th is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. The Ohio Board of Pharmacy encourages you to inform your patients of this great opportunity to safely dispose of unused prescription drugs.

For collection site locations, please visit: <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>.

The Board of Pharmacy has also published resources to help Ohio residents find drug disposal boxes throughout the year. To access the disposal box locators, please visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/DrugDisposal.

Reminder: Electronic Positive Identification Requirements Effective January 15, 2027

Effective January 15, 2027, amendments to [OAC 4729:5-5-04](#) will require, with limited exceptions, that all **Ohio outpatient pharmacies** adopt electronic positive identification as part of the pharmacy's record keeping system. This means that once effective, the rule will not permit

the use of hardcopy records and manual signatures to capture positive identification except for the following:

- Compounding and the dispensation of compounded drugs; and
- Ancillary services as defined in rule 4729:5-5-02.1 of the Administrative Code.

IMPORTANT: This change does not impact institutional pharmacies (except those that operate outpatient pharmacies), non-resident pharmacies, and other terminal distributors (EMS, clinics, OTPs, etc.). To review the upcoming amendments to the rule, visit:

www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/positiveIDchange.

Waiver Request Process

A waiver of the requirement for electronic positive identification may be granted by the Board upon written request of an outpatient pharmacy. All requests must be submitted in writing using this form: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/waiver.

NOTE: The Board reserves the right to request additional information and documentation to render a decision as to whether to grant a waiver. Waivers will be granted on a limited basis and requests that do not include all the required information will not be reviewed by Board staff.

ICD-10 Reminder

The Board of Pharmacy would like to remind pharmacies that all controlled substance prescriptions are required to report accurate data in OARRS, such as an ICD-10-CM code, a CDT code for dentists, and the intended days' supply. Should you have an error in your data, these errors are to be corrected by the pharmacy in their operating system.

DSCSA Dispenser Guide

The Board would like to remind licensees about the Dispenser Guide to Achieving Drug Supply Chain Security Act Compliance document developed by NABP. This guide was developed to assist dispensers in establishing processes to comply with the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) law enacted November 27, 2013. To access the document, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/DSCSADispenserGuide.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Resources for Healthcare Professionals

The healthcare profession is not immune to substance use disorders and mental health conditions. Such medical conditions impair a healthcare professional's competency, ability, and judgement. Substance use disorders and/or mental health conditions that are left untreated may not only cause a healthcare professional to risk their career but may also endanger the life of a patient.

These medical conditions can be effectively treated, and it is possible for healthcare professionals that are in treatment or recovery to return to practice.

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy encourages all healthcare professionals who may be struggling with a substance use disorder or mental health condition to seek help. Our rules encourage you to seek help if you need it, with no fear of reprisal or repercussions. Specifically, the Board's duty to report rules do not require reporting to the Board if a licensee voluntarily seeks treatment for a mental health condition or substance use disorder.

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.



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Instagram



988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

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