



Authorization for Nurses to Stock Automated Drug Storage Systems

Updated 4/9/2020

CLARIFICATION: *This authorization only applies to nurses working in licensed terminal distributors of dangerous drugs that have an on-site pharmacy. Nurses that work in stand-alone facilities that do not have an on-site pharmacy (nursing homes, ambulatory surgical centers, free standing emergency departments, and clinics) have always been permitted to stock automated drug storage systems.*

In order to mitigate possible staffing shortages, the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has adopted the following guidance to permit nurses (LPN, RN, APRN) to stock automated drug storage systems within a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs.

This guidance is being issued in accordance with a Board resolution adopted on March 2, 2020 and shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board.

As used in this guidance, an "automated drug storage system" means a mechanical system used for the secure storage of dangerous drugs used as floor stock or contingency drugs.

For a nurse to stock an automated drug storage system, the system must comply with the following:

1. The system utilizes a barcode scanning system at the fill station;
2. Only one selection of the medication may be open at each time; and
3. The system or the electronic health record used to administer drugs utilizes barcode medication administration (BCMA).

Additionally, the pharmacy shall be responsible for providing the necessary training for nurses to stock automated drug storage systems in a safe and effective manner.

