
STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS)

- Requires, rather than permits, the State Board of Pharmacy to provide information in the OARRS to the medical director of a Medicaid managed care organization and the Medicaid Director.
- Requires the Board to notify the Medicaid Director if it determines from a review of OARRS information that a provider of services under a program administered by the Department of Medicaid (ODM) may have violated the law.

Remote drug dispensing systems in long-term care facilities

- Authorizes a pharmacy licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to use a remote dispensing system to assist in the distribution of dangerous drugs at a nursing home or residential care facility in certain circumstances.
- Specifies that a pharmacist is not required to maintain supervision and control of a remote dispensing system or be physically present where the system is used to dispense drugs.
- Requires the facility where a remote dispensing system is located to complete periodic audits of controlled substances dispensed through the system.
- Requires that any place at which an applicant for licensure or licensed terminal distributor intends to operate a remote dispensing system be included on the application or license.

Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System

(R.C. 4729.80 and 4729.81)

Access to information

Information contained in the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), information obtained from it, and information contained in the records of requests for information from OARRS are not public records. The bill modifies the circumstances when information from OARRS may or must be released by the State Board of Pharmacy. Current law permits the Board to provide information to the medical director of a Medicaid managed care organization, if the information relates to a Medicaid recipient enrolled in the managed care organization. The bill instead *requires*



the Board to provide this information, including information related to prescriptions for the recipient that were not covered or reimbursed under an ODM-administered program.

Existing law also permits the Board to provide information to the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director, if the information relates to a recipient of a program administered by the ODJFS (e.g., Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Ohio Works First, unemployment compensation). The bill modifies this provision by *requiring* the Board to provide information to the Medicaid Director if the information relates to a recipient of a program administered by ODM (e.g., Medicaid and CHIP), including information related to prescriptions for the recipient that were not covered or reimbursed under an ODM-administered program. The bill eliminates the Board's authority to provide OARRS information to the ODJFS Director.

Notification to ODM Director

Current law requires the Board to review information in OARRS and, if it determines that a violation of law may have occurred, the Board must notify the appropriate law enforcement agency or government entity responsible for the licensure, regulation, or discipline of licensed health professionals authorized to prescribe drugs. The bill requires, in addition, that the Board notify the Medicaid Director if it determines from its review of OARRS information that a violation of law may have been committed by a provider of services under an ODM-administered program.

Remote drug dispensing systems in long-term care facilities

(R.C. 4729.542 (primary), 4729.51, 4729.54, and 4729.99)

The bill authorizes a pharmacy that is licensed as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to use a remote dispensing system to assist in the distribution of dangerous drugs at a nursing home or residential care facility. "Remote dispensing system" is defined as a mechanical system for dispensing drugs that is installed in a facility and communicates electronically with a pharmacy. A remote dispensing system must meet all of the following requirements:

(1) The system must have a documented and ongoing quality assurance program that monitors total system performance and requires 100% accuracy in drugs dispensed and their strength.

(2) The system must have security adequate to prevent unauthorized access to dangerous drugs.



(3) Records kept by the system must comply with State Board of Pharmacy requirements.

The bill specifies that a pharmacist is not required to maintain supervision and control of a remote dispensing system or be physically present at the facility where the system is used to dispense drugs. As part of the bill's quality assurance program, the bill requires the facility where a remote dispensing system is located to complete periodic audits of controlled substances dispensed through the system.

Terminal distributor licenses and applications

Continuing law requires each application for a terminal distributor license to contain specified information, including a description of the establishment or place at which the person intends to possess, have custody or control of, or distribute dangerous drugs at retail. Each license issued must also contain this information. The bill adds to the information that must be included on an application for licensure and a license as a terminal distributor by requiring that the information include any place at which an applicant or licensee intends to operate a remote dispensing system.

