
STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

- Expressly provides that the Pharmacy Board is authorized to refuse to grant a registration certificate to operate as a wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs.
- Requires certain prescribers to hold a license as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs for actions involving drugs that are compounded or used for compounding or controlled substances containing buprenorphine used for treating drug dependence or addiction.
- Requires the Board to provide the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) information to the Director of Health for duties related to the Ohio Violent Death Reporting System.
- Requires the Board to provide to a Medicaid managed care organization's pharmacy director information from OARRS relating to enrolled Medicaid recipients.
- Repeals a provision under which a prescriber or pharmacist who provides OARRS information to a patient or patient's personal representative is not subject to the prohibition against disseminating OARRS information.

Dangerous drugs distributor licensure

(R.C. 4729.51, 4729.53, 4729.541, and 4729.56)

Refusal to grant registration certificate

The bill expressly provides that the State Board of Pharmacy is authorized to refuse to grant a registration certificate to operate as a wholesale distributor of dangerous drugs. Ohio law requires the registration in order to sell prescription drugs at wholesale. Current law prohibits the Board from registering a person as a wholesale distributor unless the applicant for registration furnishes satisfactory proof to the Board that the applicant meets specified criteria. Existing law further provides that the Board may refuse to register the applicant if the Board determines that granting the registration is not in the public interest. Under the bill, the Board may refuse to grant a registration certificate on the same grounds that current law permits the Board to refuse to renew a certificate.



License required for certain prescribers

The bill requires a prescriber who does not practice as a specified business entity to hold a license as a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs as a condition of being authorized to possess and distribute (including authorization to personally furnish) either of the following: (1) compounded drugs or drugs used for compounding or (2) drugs containing buprenorphine used for treating drug dependence or addiction. Current law generally permits a prescriber to possess prescription drugs without a license. Existing law also permits specified business entities to possess and distribute certain prescription drugs without a license. However, at present, such business entities must hold a license in order to possess and distribute the following: (1) compounded drugs or drugs used for compounding or (2) drugs containing buprenorphine used for treating drug dependence or addiction.

OARRS information

(R.C. 4729.80 and 4729.86)

OARRS, the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System, is the drug database established and maintained under current law by the State Board of Pharmacy. Rules adopted by the Board require that when a reported drug (a controlled substance or tramadol) is dispensed by a pharmacy or personally furnished by a dentist, optometrist, or physician to an outpatient, this information must be reported to OARRS on a daily basis.

Existing law requires or authorizes the Board to provide information from OARRS to specified individuals. The bill adds both the Director of Health and a pharmacy director of a Medicaid managed care organization to the list of those to whom the Board is required to provide OARRS information under certain conditions.

Current law also prohibits the specified individuals to whom the Board provides information from OARRS from disseminating that information, except in limited circumstances. The bill repeals a provision under which a prescriber or pharmacist who provides OARRS information to a patient or patient's personal representative is not subject to the existing prohibition on disseminating OARRS information.

ODH Director

With respect to the Director of Health, the bill requires the Board, on receipt of a request from the Director, to provide to the Director information from OARRS relating to the duties of the Director or the Department of Health in implementing the Ohio Violent Death Reporting System (OH-VDRS). OH-VDRS is a reporting system that



collects information from multiple sources in an attempt to better understand the circumstances surrounding violent deaths.¹⁵⁷

Pharmacy director

In the case of a Medicaid managed care organization, the bill requires the Board, on receipt of a request from a pharmacy director of an organization that has entered into a contract with the Department of Medicaid (ODM) and a data security agreement with the Board, to provide to the director information from OARRS relating to a Medicaid recipient enrolled in the organization. Under the bill, the information provided from OARRS includes information related to prescriptions for the recipient that were not covered or reimbursed under a program administered by ODM. Current law already requires the Board to provide OARRS information to a medical director of the Medicaid managed care organization.

¹⁵⁷ Ohio Department of Health, *Ohio Violent Death Reporting System (OH-VDRS)*, available at www.healthy.ohio.gov/vipp/ohvdrs.aspx.

