

State Medical Board of Ohio

(614) 466-3934

30 E. Broad Street, 3rd Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6127

med.ohio.gov



January 2014

Name
Address
Address

Re: Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System ("OARRS")

Dear Doctor:

Our records indicate that you are not currently registered for the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System ("OARRS"). As you may know, in November 2011, as a response to the growing number of deaths nationwide attributed to the abuse and misuse of opioids and other controlled substances, the State Medical Board of Ohio adopted Rule 4731-11-11, Ohio Administrative Code, which requires the checking of OARRS prior to prescribing controlled substances or tramadol in three general circumstances:

- When you have reason to believe the patient's treatment with the controlled substances or tramadol will continue for twelve (12) weeks or longer;
- At least once a year thereafter for patients receiving treatment with controlled substances or tramadol; and
- Anytime a patient is exhibiting signs of drug abuse or diversion.

We strongly encourage prescribers to use OARRS as a regular part of your prescribing regimen to comply with the laws and standards governing controlled substances prescribing. We urge you to take the necessary steps today to ensure your practice is safe and you maintain compliance with Ohio law and professional prescribing standards. You may sign up for OARRS access at no cost at www.ohiopmp.gov.

To access a copy of Rule 4731-11-11 and answers to frequently asked questions regarding the rule, please go to the State Medical Board of Ohio website, <http://med.ohio.gov/pdf/rules/4731-11-11%20FAQs.pdf>

The Board would like to further draw your attention to www.opioidprescribing.ohio.gov, a new state website. This site features prescribing guidelines related specifically to the prescribing of opioids for the treatment of chronic, non-terminal pain. Prescriptions for an amount equal to or in excess of 80 mg morphine equivalent dose ("MED") should trigger special attention. The Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team ("GCOAT") is made up of a group of professional health care provider licensing boards, associations, individual providers and other key stakeholders who developed and endorsed the guidelines as part of a collective goal to help reduce and eliminate the misuse and abuse of opioid drugs in Ohio. The website has been developed with links to the 80 MED guidelines, a one-hour educational video (for CME Category 1 credit) and other prescribing resources, including additional information on the revised OARRS format.

We strongly encourage you to register for OARRS and access it prior to prescribing controlled substances or tramadol. If you have questions regarding the above listed materials, please contact Kimberly Anderson at (614) 466-7207.

Sincerely,

J. Craig Stafford, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

Mark Bechtel, M.D.
Supervising Member