

Practice Guidance

State Medical Board of Ohio

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PRESCRIBING FOR SELF AND FAMILY MEMBERS

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Every year, the State Medical Board receives a number of complaints involving physicians who prescribe to themselves or to their family members. Standard of care requires physicians to be able to use detached professional judgment in treating their patients. It is not possible for physicians to exercise detached professional judgment when dealing with their own care or the care of close family members.

Since 1998, the State Medical Board has had a rule that prohibits the prescribing of controlled substances by physicians to themselves and to their close family members. See, Rule 4731-11-08, Ohio Administrative Code. For purposes of this rule, a family member means a spouse, parent, child, sibling or other individual where the physician's personal or emotional involvement may render the physician unable to exercise detached professional judgment.

A physician may only use controlled substances to treat one of the above described family members in an emergency situation. The treatment must be documented in the patient's record. All other prescribing of controlled substances to close family members is not permitted and is a violation of the Medical Board's rule.

With respect to self-prescribing, a physician is prohibited from self-prescribing or self-administering controlled substances. A physician may obtain an over-the-counter schedule V controlled substance for personal use so long as it is obtained in compliance with state and federal laws and in the same manner that a non-physician would obtain a schedule V controlled substance.

To review the rule in its entirety, please go to the following link on the State Medical Board's website: <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4731-11-08>