

STATE MEDICAL BOARD OF OHIO

Statement on prescribing controlled substances to oneself or a family member.

Approved December, 2014

Physicians, pharmacists, and others often contact the State Medical Board of Ohio (Medical Board) and ask whether a prescriber can prescribe a controlled substance for oneself or for one's family member. The following table describes the circumstances when a prescriber can or cannot prescribe a controlled substance for oneself or a family member.

Who	• Self ¹	• Family member - spouse, parent, child, sibling or other individual when a physician's personal or emotional involvement may make that physician unable to exercise detached professional judgment in reaching diagnostic or therapeutic decisions
When	• Never	• Only in an emergency
How	• Never	• Requires maintenance of a patient record • Requires an appropriate physical examination • Requires determining a diagnosis and the purpose for which the controlled substance is utilized • Requires that the examination, diagnosis, the purpose of the prescription, and an explanation of the emergency circumstances be documented in the family member's patient record

These requirements can be found in Rules 4731-11-02 and 4731-11-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

In addition, effective April 1, 2015, Section 4731.055 of the Ohio Revised Code will require that anyone who prescribes an opioid analgesic or any benzodiazepine to any patient access Ohio Automated Prescription Reporting System (OARRS) on that patient before prescribing for the first time. The prescriber must acquire OARRS information for that patient for the previous twelve months. There are limited exceptions under which OARRS need not be accessed. Those exceptions are:

- a prescription for a period of seven days or less;
- treatment for cancer or a cancer related condition;
- a hospice patient in a hospice care program, as those terms are defined in section 3712.01 of the Revised Code, or any other patient diagnosed as terminally ill;
- administration of the medication in a hospital, nursing home, or residential care facility; or
- to treat acute pain resulting from a surgical or other invasive procedure or a delivery.

Please note that the OARRS access requirement in Section 4731.055, Ohio Revised Code, is independent of the Medical Board's rules relating to prescribing controlled substances and that using OARRS does not negate the requirements and restrictions in the Medical Board's rules on controlled substances.

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¹ Please note that a physician may obtain a schedule V controlled substance for personal use, but not via a prescription to oneself, in conformance with state and federal laws, in the same manner that a non-physician may obtain a schedule V controlled substance.