** 

*The Ohio Automated Prescription Reporting System (OARRS). Empowering Prescribers and Pharmacists to prevent Opiate Abuse.*

Mark Friedman Pharm D, BCCCP

Friedman.5@osu.edu

**What is OARRS?**

Established in 2006, OARRS is the only statewide database that collects information on all prescriptions for controlled substances (opioids, benzodiazepines) that are dispensed by pharmacies and personally furnished by licensed prescribers in Ohio.

OARRS data is available to:

* **Prescribers**
  + Authorized to request an OARRS report on a current patient defined as:
    - A person who has made an appointment for an initial office visit
    - A person who has been referred to the practice
  + May authorize a delegate(s) to obtain an OARRS report
* **Pharmacists**
  + Authorized to request an OARRS report on an individual **only if:**
    - The request is for the purpose of the practice of pharmacy *and*
    - The pharmacist has a pharmacist-patient relationship with the individual named in the request
  + May authorize a delegate(s) to obtain an OARRS report
* **Law Enforcement Supervisors and Officers**
  + A law enforcement officer may request an OARRS report on an individual **only if**:
    - The officer’s agency already has an active investigation on the individual named *and*
    - The investigation involves a drug abuse offense
* **Probation / Parole Supervisors and Officers**
  + A probation/parole officer is authorized to request an OARRS Report on an individual **only if:**
    - The officer is currently investigating (pre-sentence) *or*
    - The officer is monitoring the individual named in relation to a drug abuse offense.
* **Ohio Department of Medicaid**
  + The director of the Department is authorized to request an OARRS report ONLY on a recipient.
  + The Department must designate at least one OARRS Supervisor (Supervisor) and at least one OARRS Delegate (Delegate).
    - The Supervisor must approve every request for a Report.
    - A Supervisor cannot request a Report.
    - An agency may have multiple Supervisors for the same Delegate(s).
* **Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation** 
  + OARRS will provide prescription data to the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation. The data may be used the Bureau as a tool for evaluating a recipient’s prescription history.
  + The director of the Bureau is authorized to request a report ONLY on a recipient

**What information is provided in the OARRS database that can be used to decrease opioid abuse / risk of overdose?**

* Patient name – demographics
* Prescriber name, address
* Dispensing pharmacy name, address, phone number
* Dispensing history of: specific controlled substance, strength, quantity, days of therapy, date prescription was filled, method of payment

***\*\*\**** *OARRS is* ***Protected Health Information*** *and is* ***NOT*** *a public record*

**MED = Morphine Equivalent Dose**

**Key Point:** Prescribers and pharmacists are utilizing OARRS to provide better care for their patients, identify patients with drug seeking behavior and comply with the “Press Pause” at a MED 80.

* Used as a gauge of the abuse and overdose potential of the amount of opioid that is being given at a particular time

**When *MUST and* OARRS be checked?**

* **Prescribers must run OARRS report when:**
  + Before initially prescribing / furnishing an opioid or benzodiazepine to a patient
  + At least every 90 days if treatment with opioid or benzodiazepine continues >90 days
  + Exceptions to this requirement:
    - Drug is prescribed / furnished to a hospice or terminally ill patient
    - Drug is prescribed / furnished for an amount/period not exceeding 7 days
    - Drug is prescribed / furnished for treatment of cancer
    - Drug is administered in a hospital clinic or resident care facility
    - Drug is prescribed / furnished to treat acute pain: surgery, invasive procedure
    - If OARRS report is not available
* **Pharmacists must run OARRS report when:**
  + Patient adds a different or new controlled substance to their therapy
  + An OARRS report has not been reviewed for a patient during the last 12 months
  + Prescriber is located outside the usual pharmacy geographic area
  + Patient is from outside the usual pharmacy geographic area
  + Pharmacist has reason to believe the patient has received prescriptions for controlled substances from more than 1 prescriber during the past 3 months

**What is a Prescriber Practice Insight Report?**

* Provides the following information about their patients
  + List of prescriber’s patients who are visiting multiple prescribers ie. Doctor Shopping
  + List of prescriber’s patients who have the highest morphine equivalent doses (MED)
  + List of drugs most commonly prescribed by the clinician and a list of the prescriber’s patients that have received a prescription for an OARRS reportable drug in the last year

**How has the use of OARRS impacted opioid prescribing?**

* In 2015, the total doses of opioids dispensed to Ohio patients decreased to 701 million from a high of 793 million in 2012, a drop of 11.6%
* The number of opioid prescriptions provided to Ohio patients decreased by 1.4 million during the same time period
* OARRS data also showed a 71% decrease in the amount of people engaged in the practice of physician shopping between 2010 - 2015
  + A doctor shopper is defined as an individual receiving a prescription from 5 or more prescribers in 1 calendar month

**Recommended Links**

* OARRS [www.ohio.pharmacy.gov](http://www.ohio.pharmacy.gov)
  + Documents
    - Acceptable Use Policy’s
  + Resources
    - Start Talking! Prevention Initiative
    - Red Flags of drug diversion video
    - Governor’s Cabinet Opiate Action Team [www.mha.ohio.gov](http://www.mha.ohio.gov)
  + Opiate prescribing guidelines
    - Emergency Department / Acute Care Facility
    - Treatment of Chronic Pain
    - Treatment of Acute Pain
  + MED (Morphine Equivalent Dose) Calculator
* To locate your closest drug disposal box, visit: [https://pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/DrugDisposalResources.aspx](https://pharmacy.ohio.gov/Pubs/DrugDisposalResources.aspx )
* Partnership for Drug Free Kids
  + [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org)