

Rx for Rx Challenges

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- The opioid epidemic and related security concerns
- Internal diversion and client redirection
- Communicating with pharmacists as scripts go to “human pharmacies”
- Compounding
- State reporting databases
- License expansion

Key Areas



Ohio Veterinary Medical Association



**Responding to the need for
information, responsible
advocacy and awareness**

- ❖ Prescription Drug Task Force
 - ✓ Communication materials for pharmacists, DVMs, and the public.
 - ✓ Speaker at OPA Conference
 - ✓ OBP newsletter

- ❖ Addition of Regulatory Column
- ❖ PDF of handouts for members
- ❖ Expanded OBP sessions and presence at MVC

Information





Working with Pharmacists to Ensure Animal Health

Prescriptions & Pharmacies: Points to Consider

As more consumers turn to community or mail-order pharmacies for their animal drug needs, pharmacists play an increasingly important role in animal health. As such, veterinarians must ensure they write prescriptions properly and in a manner easily understood by pharmacists. Doing so protects the patient by preventing the pharmacist from making inappropriate drug substitutions and changing quantities or doses. Below are some factors to consider when writing a prescription.

- **To help prevent medication errors, be as clear as possible when writing dosages.** You don't want a pharmacist to misread your numbers or change the dose. Type-written prescriptions are best. If hand writing the prescription, consider the following:
 - **Write out or circle dosage numbers.** For example, if you are prescribing a 10-mg dose, consider putting a circle around your dosage or writing out the number TEN so that the prescribed dose cannot be misinterpreted or changed.
 - **Be mindful of writing prescriptions with leading or trailing zeros.** If the order is not clearly legible, a 5-mg dose written with the trailing zero (5.0) can be misread as 50 mg, or a 0.5-mg dose written without the leading zero (.5) can easily be mistaken for 5 mg, potentially resulting in a dose 10 times stronger than prescribed.
 - **Know human medications.** One source to consider is Epocrates Rx (www.epocrates.com/products). While this free drug reference app is geared toward pharmacists, it also has helpful information for veterinarians. You can look up drugs by class or name, learn which formulations are available and in what strengths, get approximate costs of generics and name brands, and obtain information through the drug interaction checker.
- **Unclear medical abbreviations are a common cause of prescription errors.** Keep in mind that different systems of abbreviations are taught in veterinary school versus pharmacy school. For example, the abbreviation SID is not used in human medicine and may be foreign to a pharmacist. To reduce the chance of misinterpretation, use the abbreviation q8h (q8h, q24h) for your prescriptions.
- **Write "No Substitution" or "DAW" next to the prescribed product's name** if you want the prescription to be dispensed exactly as written. This should prevent the pharmacist from substituting the drug with another product.
- **If a pharmacy contacts you seeking authorization to change a prescription, respond to the request in a timely manner.** You do not have to approve requests for changes. If you do decline the change, be sure to contact the client, as they may have initiated the request.
- **If you do elect to authorize a change to a prescription,** ask the pharmacy to send you a fax detailing what was dispensed to the client so you have a copy for your records.
- **If you phone in a prescription to a pharmacy,** be sure to include the name of the person you spoke to and the date and time of the conversation in your records. You can also send a fax, but keep in mind that there can be delays in filling faxed prescriptions.
- **Some pharmacies may ask for a DEA number for non-controlled substances to prevent fraudulent prescriptions.** Decline and explain that the DEA discourages sharing this identifier for non-controlled substances.
- **You may also be asked by a pharmacy to provide your National Provider Identifier (NPI) number.** The NPI is a unique 10-digit identification number issued to human healthcare providers by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Veterinarians do not meet the qualifications to obtain an NPI number, and you should not file for one. If asked, inform the pharmacist that, per federal regulations, veterinarians are not eligible for an NPI number.
- **If you encounter repeated problems with a pharmacy,** contact the outlet directly to politely address your concerns. If you are unable to resolve the issue, you may consider lodging a formal complaint with the Ohio Board of Pharmacy by phone at 614-466-4143 or online at pharmacyohio.gov (click on "File a Complaint").
- **While nothing in Ohio or federal law requires you to do so, you are encouraged to provide a written prescription** if a client requests one in lieu of dispensing. The AVMA's Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics supports honoring a client's request for a prescription.



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Veterinary resource

❖ Ohio Board of Pharmacy

- ✓ Firm but fair communication
- ✓ Tangible examples
- ✓ Understand their perspective
- ✓ Compromise when you can

❖ Build Legislative Awareness

- ✓ Proactive –address issues upfront
- ✓ One on one time to explain why you are unique
- ✓ Recognize you have responsibility with the right

Responsible Advocacy



Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS)

➔ Veterinarians are specifically exempt.
Can voluntarily participate but not required to.



OAC 4729-16-12

- ❖ Non-Patient Specific Allowed
- To treat emergency situations
- Treatment where time delay could harm patient
- Diagnostic

DVM Specific Rule

- ❖ Limited Quantity- is reasonable considering the intended use
- ❖ Can also furnish up to a seven day supply if failure to do so could cause harm

Compound Drug Rules

❖ OVMA Opioid Diversion Awareness Task Force

- ✓ Working with Ohio Attorney General, Veterinary Licensing Board and Board of Pharmacy
- ✓ Printed education resources
- ✓ Educational sessions
- ✓ Identify best practices

❖ Areas of concern

- ✓ Client diversion
- ✓ Internal diversion
- ✓ Again - Recognize you have responsibility with the right



Awareness