



DRUGS, DRUGS, & MORE DRUGS

William T. Winsley, M.S., R.Ph.

**Former Exec. Dir., Ohio Board of
Pharmacy**

Past President, NABP

bbwconsulting@columbus.rr.com



Duties of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy

- **Licensing/Administrative Agency**
- **Law Enforcement Agency**

Enforcement Responsibility – ORC Chapters

2925. – Criminal Drug Laws

3715. – Food & Drug Laws

3719. – Controlled Substance Laws

4729. – Pharmacy/Dangerous Drug Laws

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss R.Ph. duties & responsibilities when presented with an RX for dispensing
2. Discuss the problem with drugs from an individual state perspective





PRE-TEST ?????? #1

1. A Pharmacist must:
 - a. Fill any RX presented w/o question
 - b. Use independent judgment on **EVERY** RX presented
 - c. Question only those RXs where a definite allergy or overdose exists



PRE-TEST ?????? #2

2. A prescription for oxycodone 30mg #240 written yesterday in Peoria for a patient from Champaign who drove to Chicago to pick up the RX is obviously for a legitimate medical purpose and should not be questioned:
- True
 - False

PRE-TEST ?????? #3

3. There is a legitimate medical reason for the combination of an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to be prescribed to one person

- a. True
- b. False





PHARMACY'S TWO MOST IMPORTANT RULES FOR PRACTICE



**MOST IMPORTANT RULE FOR
PRACTICE**

**ALWAYS, ALWAYS,
ALWAYS ACT IN
THE BEST
INTERESTS OF
YOUR PATIENT**



AND RULE #2 IS?

4729-5-21 OAC & 1306.04 CFR

(A) A prescription, to be valid, must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual prescriber acting in the usual course of his/her professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing is upon the prescriber, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who dispenses the prescription. An order purporting to be a prescription issued not in the usual course of bona fide treatment of a patient is not a prescription and the person knowingly dispensing such a purported prescription, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties of law.

**IS THERE A PRESCRIPTION
DRUG PROBLEM?**

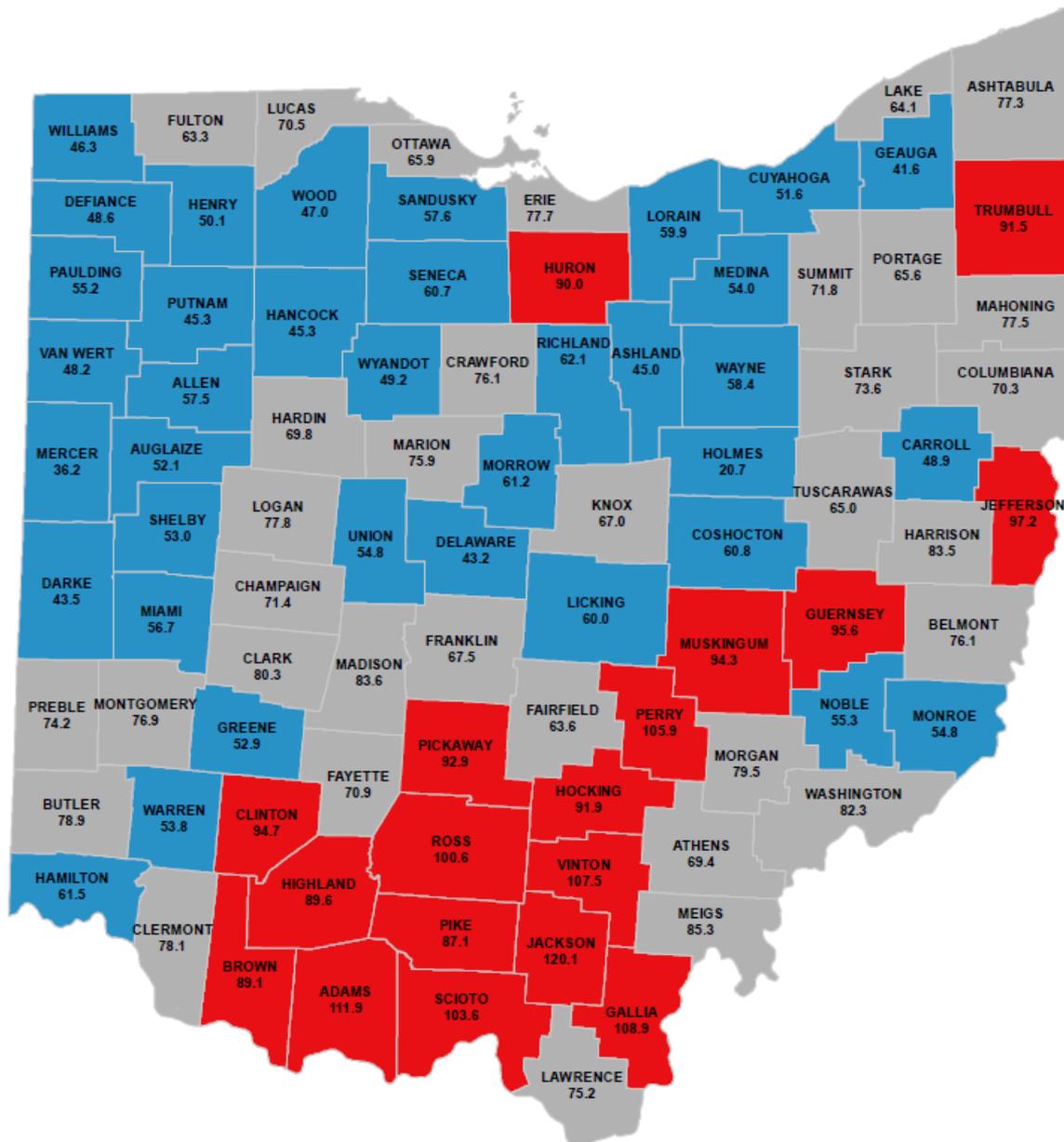
YOU BE THE JUDGE -



The 16,651 opiate overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2010 is equivalent to an MD80 aircraft carrying 140 passengers crashing **EVERY DAY** for 4 straight months!

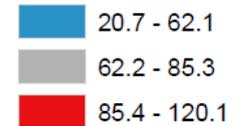


Prescription Opioid Doses Per Capita - 2011



Legend

Doses per Capita

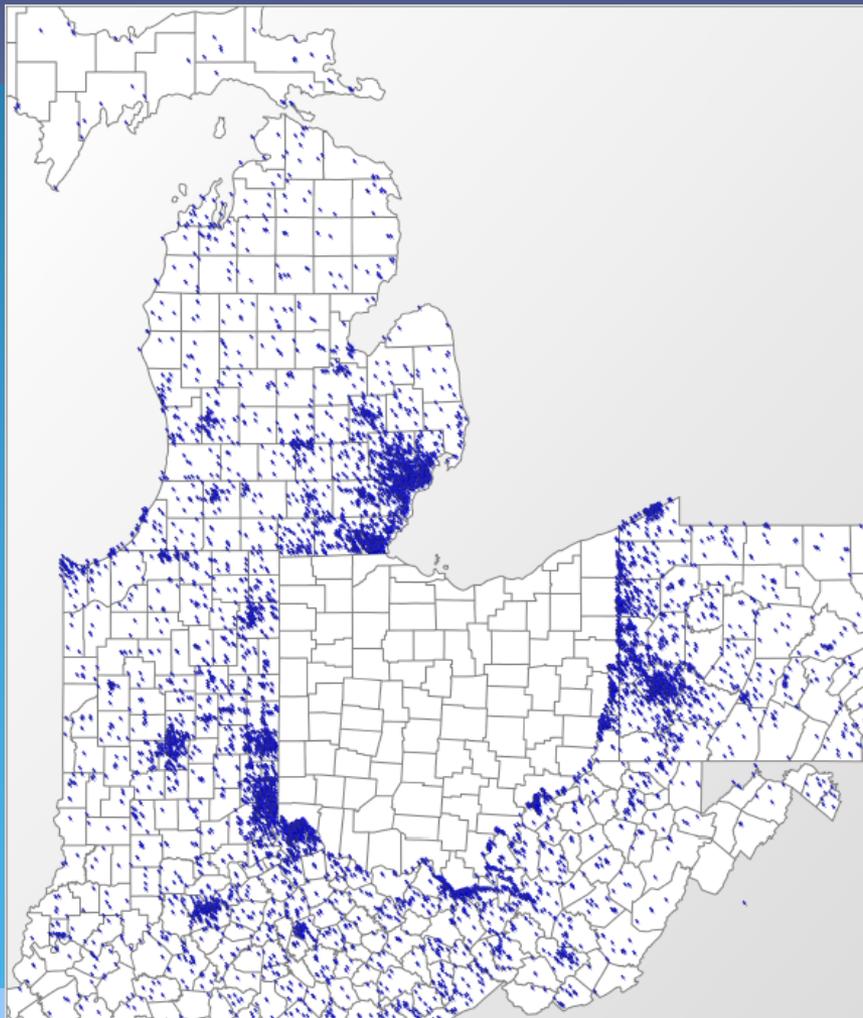


Data Source:
Data adapted from the
Ohio State Board of Pharmacy
Map produced March 2012

Map Information:

This map represents the doses of prescription opioids available for each person during 2011. Ohio's average per capita rate is 66.7 doses. The counties with the highest per capita rates were Jackson (120.1), Adams (111.9) and Gallia (108.9). The counties with the lowest per capita rates were Holmes (20.7), Mercer (36.2) and Geauga (41.6).

Out-of-State Patients at Ohio Pharmacies (excluding mail order) January – June 2011



Source: Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System



ANY OTHER SOURCES?

These maps only show the data from the Ohio PDMP (OARRS). It does not reflect the large (HUGE) amount of drugs being ferried across state lines from other states, including MI, FL & GA.

Ohio law enforcement is still finding large quantities of RX meds during traffic stops.

WHAT ABOUT THE “TRINITY”

- Is there any legitimate reason to prescribe/dispense an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to one individual?
- Not if you know their indications and metabolism, there isn't!



PILL MILLS –OHIO

Case study about an Ohio doctor:



PILL MILLS – FLORIDA, GEORGIA, & OHIO

Case study about an Ohio drug ring
and their trips to Florida





E-MAIL TO ALL OHIO LICENSED PHARMACISTS

On March 24, 2009, the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy sent out the following e-mail to every pharmacist licensed by the Board:



3/24/2009 E-MAIL

The Ohio Board of Pharmacy has noticed a significant volume of prescriptions from physicians in Florida and is seeking more information. The physicians are primarily located in Ft. Lauderdale, Boca Raton, or Hollywood, Florida, but they are prescribing for patients from Ohio and Kentucky. Several, but not all, of the physicians are associated with the “American Pain Clinic LLC.”



3/24/2009 E-MAIL

The prescriptions are written for oxycodone 15 or 30 mg, Roxicodone 15 or 30 mg, Xanax 2 mg, Soma 350 mg, and Percocet 10/325 mg. These patients are generally 20-55 years old and usually pay cash.



3/24/2009 E-MAIL

If you see any of these prescriptions for individuals other than those few “snowbirds” who are part of your regular patient base, please contact Agent Bill Padgett at (###-###) as soon as possible.



3/24/2009 E-MAIL

Remember, before filling any prescription, the pharmacist must take into consideration 4729-5-30, OAC, Manner of issuance of a prescription; and 4729-5-21, OAC, Manner of processing of a prescription. These rules state, in part:

3/24/2009 E-MAIL

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3/24/2009 E-MAIL

- In many of these cases, we are wondering how the term “legitimate medical purpose” applies when a patient who is supposedly in severe pain can ride to Florida and back to receive treatment when we have excellent facilities in Ohio.



3/24/2009 E-MAIL

If you decide in your professional judgment not to fill the prescription and are comfortable keeping the original prescription, please do so if you can. Advise the individuals that they must contact Agent Padgett regarding their prescriptions and provide them with his telephone number. If you are not comfortable keeping the prescription, then at a minimum, please copy the prescription, return it to the individual, and contact Agent Padgett ASAP.



3/24/2009 E-MAIL

If you have already filled such prescriptions, please contact Agent Padgett at (e-mail) or (###-###). Based on some of the cases we have already found, this may be a coordinated effort to obtain drugs and we are trying to develop a list of the people involved.

RESULTS?

- **Overwhelming!**
- **In the first three days after the e-mail, over 300 calls, faxes, and e-mails BURIED the one agent noted on the Board's e-mail.**
- **AND THEY CONTINUED TO COME IN!**



RESULTS?

- One day, he got a call from a pharmacy in his hometown, telling him that a Florida RX had just been presented.
- He immediately went to the pharmacy, interviewed the “patient” who ended up telling the whole story.





HAPPY ENDING?

- 6 people (including a police officer) ended up pleading guilty to multiple felonies, including drug trafficking.
- They all went to prison for varying lengths of time.
- The group **CLEARED** around \$50,000 per month by selling their drugs.

HAPPY ENDING?

- 44 yo wm – leader
- 43 yo wf
- 38 yo wf
- 46 yo wf
- 47 yo wf
- 46 yo wm (brother of “leader”)
- It started in Florida. I’m sure it’s happening here as well.





WHO DECIDES THE VALIDITY OF PRESCRIPTIONS?

**DISPENSING PHARMACISTS NEED
TO REMEMBER THAT THEY, NOT
THEIR DISTRICT SUPERVISORS,
HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE
“CORRESPONDING
RESPONSIBILITY”!!!**

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFO?

- **IF THE PATIENT IS NOT FROM YOUR AREA, QUESTION WHY THEY ARE THERE. IT MAY BE LEGITIMATE – BUT.....**
- **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS**
- **USE YOUR STATE PMP– AND THERE’S SOMETHING EXTRA FOR YOUR USE FROM NABP.**







- Creates interoperability for individual state Prescription Monitoring Programs via a hub system
- Physicians and pharmacists log into their own state PMP and check boxes for other participating states from which they want data
- The hub routes the requests to the various states and the information back to the physician or pharmacist in one collated report



- 15 PMPs--Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Virginia are actively sharing data
- Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia have signed the MOU and should all be connected and sharing data during 2013
- Montana, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Wyoming have MOUs pending



**FINAL
REMINDER-**

4729-5-21 OAC (& 1306.04 CFR)

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I'M DONE!

