



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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## **COVID-19 UPDATE- Oregon Board of Pharmacy (OBOP) Information, March 23, 2020**

***As circumstances and conditions continue to evolve, this document serves to compile information into a single source. The list of COVID-19 RESOURCES is growing – available on last page of this document***

On 3/23/2020, Governor Brown issued an [Executive Order](#) describing updated social distancing requirements – “*Stay Home, Save Lives*”. Based on this and ongoing reports in Oregon and via the media throughout this country this past weekend, the Oregon Board of Pharmacy strongly urges pharmacy drug outlets to deploy employee protection measures. Further, pharmacies shall provide appropriate guidance and ongoing direction to staff so they may continue to offer critical pharmacy services and access to patients.

### **New - Technician Supervision Regulations to be Amended**

For the declared emergency timeframe only, on or after March 23, 2020 a pharmacy may consider remote processing functions, to include the option of pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians to perform *limited functions* from a secure off-site, non-pharmacy location. A pharmacist may provide “remote monitoring” of a pharmacy intern or technician for the following remote processing functions only:

- Prescription order entry;
- Other data entry; and
- Insurance processing of prescriptions and medication orders

Pharmacy drug outlet shall download and complete the Board’s updated [Remote Processing Checklist for use during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). Checklist Policies & Procedures must be created, enforced and maintained on-site at the pharmacy drug outlet. ***As of 3/23/2020 and until further notice, any Oregon registered pharmacy participating in remote processing functions by ANY licensee must notify the Board.*** Send notification to [pharmacy.board@oregon.gov](mailto:pharmacy.board@oregon.gov) (subject line: “Remote Processing Notification”). You are required to *notify* the Board, however do not submit checklist P&Ps.

### **Prescriptions for Chloroquine/Hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19**

Across the nation, and in Oregon pharmacies are reporting an increase in the number of prescriptions being issued for this non-FDA approved purpose.

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3/23/2020

On 3/23/2020 the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) shared the following related statement about [‘Inappropriate Hydroxychloroquine Prescribing’](#):

The Board has received reports from pharmacies regarding physicians inappropriately prescribing hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil). **The Board does not approve of inappropriate or false prescribing, especially in times of crisis.** Further, the Medical Board and the Board of Pharmacy provide the following reminders of some of the risks related to administering unproven therapies:

- Creating the risk of adverse effects and additional harm.
- Creating shortages of therapies for patients who have legitimate medical need for the drug's intended purpose and use.
- Confounding the interpretation of efficacy (particularly when randomized controlled studies are necessary and are currently underway).
- Providing false hope to patients or a false sense of security.

#### **Other Pharmacy Practice Considerations**

- There are no Board of Pharmacy regulations that require a patient to sign for a medication upon pick-up. Please review and adjust pharmacy policy to comply with Governor’s latest executive order.
- To reiterate: Consider alternative methods to get prescriptions to patients – drive-thru, curbside delivery, home delivery, mailing
  - For patient counseling, a verbal offer or providing an offer to counsel in writing (i.e. a telephone number where a pharmacist may be reached) is required in accordance with [OAR 855-019-0230](#).
- There are no pharmacy board regulations to prohibit e-prescribing of a Death with Dignity Act (DWDA) prescription. It is recommended that a DWDA e-prescription be transmitted to a pharmacy with a pharmacist who is aware of and has agreed to fill the DWDA prescription. For additional information, contact the [Oregon Health Authority DWDA Program](#).

#### **Licensing Clarification**

Attention CPTs – Now is the time to renew your license! Certified Pharmacy Technician license renewal is active and available [online](#). CPT licenses must be renewed by 6/30/2020. The process is an online process and our state’s current declared emergency does NOT present any barriers to renewal. (Recall that “Live CE” is not an Oregon Board of Pharmacy requirement.)

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#### **COVID-19 UPDATE- Oregon Board of Pharmacy (OBOP) Information, March 19, 2020**

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3/23/2020

**All items from OBOP's prior notices remain current. As circumstances and conditions continue to evolve, this document serves to compile information into a single source. The list of COVID-19 RESOURCES is growing – available on last page of this document**

[Oregon Administrative Rule \(OAR\) Division 007 – Public Health Emergency](#) is in effect for all Oregon pharmacies, as of 3/8/2020. In accordance with the nature of this COVID-19 pandemic, the focus **remains on** minimization of individuals in close contact with one another (“social distancing”). As this is a rapidly evolving situation, pharmacists and pharmacies should continue to care for their patients in a manner that assures access and safety. All state and federal pharmacy regulations remain in effect and Division 007 – Public Health Emergency rules apply only for the duration and scope of the declared public health emergency (PHE).

#### **Pharmacist, Technician, Intern Licensing:**

- **Inactive Pharmacist License Reactivation:** Per [OAR 855-007-0050\(4\)](#), the [Pharmacist License Reactivation Application](#) is available.
  - Any pharmacist whose license has been inactive for no more than two years may reactivate their license *without* having to complete continuing education or MPJE. There is no fee and the license will revert back to lapsed status at the end of six months.
- **Due to test site closure:**
  - NAPLEX or MPJE exam score expirations, pharmacist licensure transfer application dates and the internship requirements within the one-year period for reciprocity will be extended for 90 days after the ending date of the PHE issued on 3/8/2020. Extensions will be considered on a case by case basis, as requested. Please email [pharmacy.licensing@oregon.gov](mailto:pharmacy.licensing@oregon.gov), subject line “Extension Request”.
  - All Pharmacy Technician (PT) licenses with an expiration date of 6/30/2020: plan to extend to 12/31/2020. New licenses will be printed and mailed out to all PTs, prior to 6/30/2020. No action is required for this extension.

#### **Conservation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/USP 797:**

Pharmacies and pharmacy personnel are expected to utilize and triage existing supplies in the most appropriate ways based on the needs of your specific location and circumstances, and in accordance with national recommendations. A pharmacy’s documented PPE Conservation Plan does not need to be approved by the OBOP.

If certification for PECs and SECs lapse due to vendor unavailability, the PIC should evaluate their setting, consider actions such as shortening BUDs, increased surface sampling and gloved fingertip sampling and take appropriate action. Consult national recommendations. Certification should be completed as soon as practical after end of the PHE.

#### **Controlled Substance Refills**

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As of 3/19/2020, the DEA has not suspended any regulations. All controlled substance regulations remain in effect. Prescriber authorization is required for all controlled substance refills.

### Miscellaneous Pharmacy Practice Considerations

- We appreciate but do not require notification of pharmacy policy changes, such as plans related to CPR expiration, certification lapses, hours of operation changes, resource allocation
  - Notification to OBOP is required for:
    - Pharmacy closure
    - Request for extension of NABP, MPJE, reciprocity deadlines
  - Other issues and considerations:
    - Implement and train staff on infection prevention practices in all pharmacy sites to maintain social distancing and disinfection routines to keep patients and staff safe
    - CPR certification for vaccine-certified pharmacists that lapse during the PHE should be completed as soon as practical after end of the PHE.
    - Do what you can to reduce fax refill requests that can be managed at pharmacy; clinics are inundated
    - Discontinue all auto-faxes regarding proactive refill requests, if possible
    - Consider alternative methods to get prescriptions to patients – drive-thru, curbside delivery, home delivery, mailing
    - Consider providing special hours for high-risk persons to help with social distancing
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### COVID-19 UPDATE - Oregon Board of Pharmacy Information, March 16, 2020

- **Temporary Pharmacies** (OAR [855-007-0100](#)): For the purpose of creating an alternative medication pick-up or dispensing location, the Oregon Board of Pharmacy has created an application for Temporary Pharmacy registration, for in-state pharmacy locations only. If applicable, pharmacies should download, complete and submit the completed application to [pharmacy.board@oregon.gov](mailto:pharmacy.board@oregon.gov)
  - There is no fee for this application
  - Temporary Pharmacy must comply with all State and Federal pharmacy regulations, including those related to security, counseling, personnel (including requirement for pharmacist on site), recordkeeping, etc.
- **Emergency Licensure** (OAR [855-007-0050](#)): An Oregon registered drug outlet may employ a pharmacist, intern or pharmacy technician who does not hold a license issued by the Board, provided that the individual provides evidence that they hold a comparable license issued by any other state or signatory to the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA) or Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The pharmacy shall retain on-site documentation of each such employee during the declared emergency and for 3 years.
  - Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA) means the compact between the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and the Province of British Columbia, and Yukon, to provide mutual assistance in an emergency or public health emergency.
  - Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) means the compact for mutual assistance that was ratified by Congress and signed by all states, and is codified in ORS 401.043.

- **Emergency Pharmacy Rules** (OAR [855-007-0090](#)):
  - Does not apply to controlled substance medications
  - Pharmacist must retain all documentation on-site for each medication dispensed when pursuant to these emergency prescription rules
- **Temporary Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer:** The Oregon Board of Pharmacy permits this practice – [guidance document from the FDA](#).  
*Note: Permitted for OTC-sales and for patient-specific prescriptions*

**All items from OBOP's 3/13/2020 notice remain current, including:**

- A pharmacy may deliver or mail medications to patients (permitted any time)
- Pharmacies and health-systems need to do what is necessary to treat patients and manage employee health. For the declared emergency timeframe only, if minimization of on-site personnel is needed, any Oregon licensed pharmacy may consider remote processing functions. If applicable, pharmacy shall download and complete [Remote Processing Checklist](#)
  - Checklist P&Ps must be created and followed, but DO NOT NEED TO BE APPROVED BY OBOP prior to use; maintain on-site at the pharmacy
  - This means formal waivers are NOT necessary for these functions during the declared emergency timeframe
- **Technicians must be working in a pharmacy at the direction and control and under the supervision of a pharmacist – if staff minimization/reduction becomes critical, then it must be a pharmacist that physically functions at a pharmacy (not a technician working unsupervised)**
  - **This means that “remote supervision” of a pharmacy technician is not permitted by regulations.**

Conditions and guidance are changing rapidly. Pharmacists should maintain up-to-date information on this evolving public health emergency to provide the public with factual and detailed information to help reduce the spread of this virus, particularly to vulnerable persons. The board will continue to provide updates as conditions evolve and trusts that you will take care of yourselves, your families, your patients, and your communities. We will get through this unprecedented situation together!

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**COVID-19 - Oregon Board of Pharmacy Information, March 13, 2020**

Governor Kate Brown declared a 60-day state of emergency on March 8, 2020, to help the state prepare for the impacts of COVID-19 in Oregon and the US. At this time, COVID-19 is demonstrating sustained person-to-person community spread and on 3/12/2020, Governor Brown announced urgent strategies to slow the spread of the virus throughout the state. Federal and state health officials are emphasizing mitigation strategies to keep communities safe, focusing on older people and people with chronic diseases who are at higher risk of complications.

## Oregon Pharmacy Impacts

[Oregon Administrative Rule Division 007 – Public Health Emergency](#) is in effect for all Oregon pharmacies, as of 3/8/2020. In accordance with the nature of this COVID-19 pandemic, the focus is minimization of individuals in close contact with one another (“social distancing”). As this is an evolving situation, pharmacists and pharmacies should continue to care for their patients in a manner that assures access and safety. All state and federal pharmacy regulations remain in effect.

- Division 007 addresses drug distribution and dispensing
- A pharmacy may deliver or mail medications to patients (permitted any time)
- The Oregon Board of Pharmacy (OBOP) is prepared to issue Temporary Pharmacy registrations, but only in the event of mass drug distribution needs
- Pharmacies and health-systems need to do what is necessary to treat patients and manage employee health. For the declared emergency timeframe only, if minimization of on-site personnel is needed, pharmacy may consider remote processing functions. If applicable, pharmacy shall download and complete [Remote Processing Checklist](#):
  - Checklist P&Ps must be created and followed, but DO NOT NEED TO BE APPROVED BY OBOP prior to use; maintain on-site at the pharmacy
  - This means formal waivers are NOT necessary for these function during the declared emergency timeframe
- Technicians must be working in a pharmacy at the direction and control and under the supervision of a pharmacist –if staff minimization/reduction becomes critical, then it must be a pharmacist that physically functions at a pharmacy (not a technician working unsupervised)
- If it becomes necessary, pharmacists have the authority to issue emergency refills of prescription drugs during the declared emergency and may assist in the storage and distribution of drugs from the Strategic National Stockpile.

**Conditions and guidance are changing rapidly.** Pharmacists should maintain up-to-date information on this evolving public health emergency to provide the public with factual and detailed information to help reduce the spread of this virus, particularly to vulnerable persons.

The board will continue to provide updates as conditions evolve and trusts that you will take care of yourselves, your families, your patients, and your communities. We will get through this unprecedented situation together!

### COVID-19 resources:

- [Oregon Health Authority](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [FDA Letter to HCPs](#) – regarding PPE conservation strategies
  - [FDA FAQs – Shortages of Surgical Masks and Gowns](#)
- [CDC Hospital Preparedness Assessment Tool](#)
- [CDC Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#)

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3/23/2020

- [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Preparedness](#)
- [FDA Guidance – Temporary Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products](#)
  - [USP – Compounding Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer during COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [FDA Guidance – Clinical Trials during COVID-19](#)
- [DEA COVID-19 Information Page](#) (Note: As of 3/19/2020, the DEA has not suspended any regulations. All controlled substance federal and state regulations remain in effect.)
- [APhA Pharmacists' Guide to Coronavirus](#)
- [COVID-19: Downstream Implications for Sterile Compounding](#) PPE guidance from Critical Point (Note: this webinar is shared for information purposes only and does not constitute an OBOP endorsement)

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