COVID-19 Pharmacy Consult Update
April 17, 2020

A Pharmacy Consult is when a physician refers the dosing management of a drug to a pharmacist. The pharmacist upon receipt of the order reviews the pertinent diagnostics, anthropometric data and the medical record to determine the correct dosage and frequency of the ordered drug. Common drug classifications where pharmacy consults are ordered include IV antibiotics, anticoagulants and anti-epileptics. Additionally, the pharmacist may order additional diagnostics and modify drug dosage as appropriate. For a physician and pharmacist to co-manage certain drugs, they must have a physician-pharmacist consult agreement.

On April 9, 2020 the Board of Pharmacy provided new guidance on who may order pharmacy consults. Temporary authority has been given to prescribing APRNs and physician assistants during the state COVID emergency to consult pharmacists in hospitals (inpatient/ambulatory) and other designated institutional facilities only. (Unfortunately, the guidance is site restricted).

Other designated institutional facilities:
(1) Convalescent homes;
(2) Developmental facilities;
(3) Long term care facilities;
(4) Nursing homes;
(5) Psychiatric facilities;
(6) Rehabilitation facilities;
(7) Developmental disability facilities;
(8) Level III sub-acute detoxification facilities certified by the Ohio department of mental health and addiction services;
(9) State or local correctional facilities

Once the state COVID emergency ends, the authority for prescribing APRNs and physician assistants to order a pharmacy consult will be rescinded. OAAPN has been actively engaged in pursuing legislative change to allow prescribing APRNs to enter into APRN-Pharmacist agreements for the last four years. This barrier to efficiently provide healthcare for our patients is one of OAAPN’s legislative priorities.

You can review the Ohio Board of Pharmacy’s guideline document at this LINK.