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Media Release

The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy Awarded U.S. Department of Justice Grant to Improve Ohio's Prescription Monitoring Program

The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy's Prescription Monitoring Program, known as the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS), has received a \$386,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to improve utilization of this important tool to address Ohio's prescription drug abuse epidemic.

The 18-month award, part of the competitive Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, will allow the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy to achieve three important goals: 1) improve registration and use of OARRS, including direct integration with Ohio's largest health information exchange known as CliniSync; 2) improve data quality reported to the system; and 3) enhance the quality of referrals for potential drug law violations made from the system.

Developed in 2006, OARRS is a clinical tool to assist in the treatment of Ohio patients. The Board collects information on all prescriptions for controlled substances that are dispensed in Ohio. This information is then available to prescribers when they treat patients, pharmacists when presented with prescriptions from patients and law enforcement officers during active investigations.

"OARRS is one of the best tools at our disposal to prevent prescription drug diversion and protect patient safety", says Ohio State Board of Pharmacy Interim Executive Director Eric Griffin. "The improvements that result from this grant will continue to allow OARRS to be one of the best prescription monitoring programs in the country."

For more information on OARRS, including how to register for the system, please visit: www.ohiopmp.gov/