



SOMETIMES WE JUST HAVE TO SAY NO.

There are times when the laws and pharmacy board rules prohibit a pharmacist from dispensing a medication.

VALID PRESCRIPTION

To be valid, a prescription must be...

- **Issued for a legitimate medical purpose** by a prescriber acting in the usual course of his/her practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing is upon the prescriber; however, a corresponding responsibility also rests with the pharmacist who dispenses the prescription. State and federal regulations require pharmacists to use professional judgment to determine the legitimacy of a prescription and whether the prescription is in the best interest of the patient. **A pharmacist is not required to dispense a prescription of doubtful, questionable, or suspicious origin or if a prescription poses a risk to the health of the patient.**

(OAC 4729-5-20(G), 4729-5-30(A) & 4729-5-21(A))

NOT VALID PRESCRIPTION

A prescription is not valid if...

- **The prescription is too old.** Prescriptions have time limits, even if there are still refills remaining. A pharmacist may not dispense a prescription that has expired. If refills were authorized, they are good for one year from the date the prescription was written on a non-controlled prescription, six months for a controlled substance. *(OAC 4729-5-30(B)(9-11))*
- **The prescription has not been filled for the first time** within six months of the date issued. New prescriptions must be filled for the first time within six months. *(OAC 4729-5-21(G))*

Your safety is important.

Pharmacists are expected to use professional judgment when filling every prescription, which may mean they will decline filling a particular prescription. It may be too soon to refill or potentially unsafe to dispense a certain medication at a particular time.

If you or someone you know needs help, please call **1 (877) 275.6364** to find an addiction services provider near you.