Hello everyone!

I hope that you are all doing well during these chaotic times. I’ve received many COVID-19 plans from OTPs around the state, and I’m proud to say that they demonstrate a stellar commitment to your patients and staff during this time of crisis. I appreciate all of the hard work and long hours you are putting in for our field. Great work so far!

Please see the latest guidance document attached to this email. There are several important changes regarding 1) allowing take homes for stable patients, 2) increasing tele-touch points for anyone receiving an exception and general telehealth guidance, 3) accessing naloxone funds, and 4) many more great tidbits.

One question that didn’t make it into the document was, “Does our OTP have to make patients sign for their medication dose and/or take homes?” Answer: The Ohio Board of Pharmacy (BOP) and OhioMHAS do not have requirements that mandate OTPs make patients sign for their dose. The BOP cautioned that it may be a requirement of insurance carries/PBMs. Additionally, SAMHSA had this to say when asked the question:

“This is a standard medical practice to ensure the right patient receives the right medication. It is not in 42 CFR but generally this is a requirement for billing, recordkeeping and an overall standard. Medication errors already occur even with this procedure in place. Programs should work to find options to keep this in place while we have more patients receiving large amounts of takehome medication.”

Thanks,

～Rick Massatti～

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