



State Medical  
Board of Ohio

Board of  
Pharmacy

Board of  
Nursing

## Diagnosis Codes on Controlled Substance Prescriptions – Guidance for Medical Board and Nursing Board Licensees

**Date Issued: 4/28/2026**

*This statement highlights existing law and is intended for the benefit of practitioners and the public to promote better understanding of the laws governing the practice of medicine, nursing, and pharmacy.*

### **Outpatient Prescriptions Issued by Ohio Prescribers Must Include a Diagnosis Code**

Ohio's prescription issuance rule (OAC [4729:5-5-15](#)) requires MD/DOs, APRNs, and PAs to include the ICD-10-CM medical diagnosis code of the primary disease or condition that the controlled substance is being used to treat. The code shall, at a minimum, include the first four alphanumeric characters of the ICD-10-CM medical diagnosis code, sometimes referred to as the category and the etiology (see [FAQ 2](#) for more information).

**IMPORTANT:** This requirement & guidance does not apply to the following:

- Veterinarians are exempted from any diagnosis code requirement on a controlled substance prescription [see OAC 4729:5-5-15 (B)(14)(b)].
- Dentists are required to include the Code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature (CDT Code), as published by the American Dental Association, of the dental treatment requiring the controlled substance prescription.

***Please be advised that Medical Board and Nursing Board rules require MD/DOs, APRNs, and PAs, to comply with all prescription issuance rules adopted by the Board of Pharmacy [see OAC 4731-11-02(D), OAC 4730-2-07(A)(3), 4723-9-10 (C)(5)]. Failure to include a diagnosis code is considered a violation of Ohio law and may subject the licensee to disciplinary action.***

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1) I am an out-of-state provider that issues prescriptions via telemedicine, do I have to include a diagnosis code on my prescription?**

Yes. All out-of-state prescribers treating Ohio patients are required to hold a valid Ohio medical or nursing license. Therefore, all outpatient controlled substance prescriptions must include a diagnosis code.

**IMPORTANT:** Outpatient prescriptions include any drug dispensed outside of an institutional facility. An outpatient prescription does not include inpatient orders for the administration of drugs on-site.

### **2) Am I permitted to submit multiple diagnosis codes?**

To ensure the pharmacy can accurately report the code, all prescriptions should only have the diagnosis code of the primary disease or condition the controlled substance is being used to treat.

For MD/DO, APRNs, and PAs, they may include the full ICD-10 diagnosis code. However, only the first four alpha numeric characters (without punctuation) of the ICD-10 code is required to be included on the prescription.

For example, a patient may require a controlled substance to treat a neck fracture. Let's say the full diagnosis code is "S72.031: Displaced fracture of the femoral neck, right side." All that is required to be reported on the prescription is "S720."

### **3) Are compounded controlled substances required to include a diagnosis code?**

Yes. This includes ketamine and all other compounded controlled substances that are prescribed for outpatient use.

**4) How do I confirm that the diagnosis codes on my outpatient prescriptions are being reported to OARRS?**

The ICD-10 codes are part of a patient’s report within the electronic system used by the prescriber or pharmacist to access OARRS, as well as PMP AWARxE (log-in at [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/oarrs](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/oarrs)).

In a Patient Report, you should see green ICD-10 codes in the Prescription section. If any are marked “invalid” that means the system did not recognize the submission as an ICD-10 code. If a prescriber does not include a code on the prescription, the pharmacy shall indicate “NC” in the diagnosis data field (see example below).

**Prescriptions**  
Total: 112 | Private Pay: 3

Filled	Written	ID	Drug	QTY	Days	Prescriber	RX #	Dispenser	Refill	Daily Dose*	Pymt Type	PMP
03/31/2026	03/31/2026	1	LORAZEPAM 1 MG TABLET ICD 10 NC	16.00	4		04113256		0	4.00 LME	Comm Ins	OH
03/30/2026	03/29/2026	3	OXYCODONE HCL (IR) 10 MG TAB ICD 10 NC	28.00	7		2084375		0	60.00 MME	Private Pay	OH
03/23/2026	03/23/2026	4	OXYCODONE HCL (IR) 30 MG TAB ICD 10 invalid	84.00	7		1276945		0	540.00 MME	Comm Ins	OH
03/23/2026	03/23/2026	4	LORAZEPAM 1 MG TABLET ICD 10 invalid	84.00	4		1276946		0	21.00 LME	Comm Ins	OH
03/23/2026	03/23/2026	4	METHADONE HCL 10 MG TABLET ICD 10 invalid	24.00	6		1276948		0	188.00 MME	Comm Ins	OH
03/19/2026	03/18/2026	4	METHADONE HCL 10 MG TABLET ICD 10 invalid	24.00	6		1273636		0	188.00 MME	Comm Ins	OH
03/19/2026	03/19/2026	4	OXYCODONE HCL (IR) 30 MG TAB ICD 10 invalid	84.00	7		1274912		0	540.00 MME	Comm Ins	OH
03/17/2026	03/17/2026	4	METHADONE HCL 10 MG TABLET ICD 10 invalid	24.00	6		1272656		0	188.00 MME	Comm Ins	OH
03/11/2026	03/11/2026	4	OXYCODONE HCL (IR) 30 MG TAB ICD 10 invalid	252.00	7		1268609		0	1620.00 MME	Comm Ins	OH
03/11/2026	03/11/2026	4	METHADONE HCL 10 MG TABLET	21.00	7		1268611		0	141.00 MME	Comm Ins	OH

**5) I included diagnosis codes on my prescriptions, but they are not showing up in OARRS. How do I correct this issue?**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Correction</b>
<p><b>The diagnosis codes are not being properly transmitted to the pharmacy.</b></p>	<p>The prescriber’s system is not transferring the code itself. This is likely the case if none of the prescriber’s outpatient prescriptions have any reported diagnosis codes as reported by multiple pharmacies. In this instance, the prescriber should contact their IT vendor to determine why that information is not being transmitted.</p>
<p><b>The diagnosis codes are not being properly transmitted to OARRS by the pharmacy.</b></p>	<p>If the prescriber includes a diagnosis code, they need to contact the dispensing pharmacy to determine if the information is being properly received by the pharmacy.</p> <p>The pharmacy may be receiving the diagnosis codes in the notes field and is not reporting that information to OARRS. If this is the case, the prescriber should request that the pharmacy begin reporting that information.</p> <p>If the pharmacy does not comply with this request, prescribers are encouraged to file a complaint with the Board of Pharmacy by visiting:  <a href="http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/complaint">www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/complaint</a>.</p>