

Pharmacy Issues Discussed:

At the December 12, 2007 Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board meeting, Bill Winsley, Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Pharmacy addressed issues that the Board members had raised at previous board meetings, specifically related to Drug Samples. Mr. Winsley distributed sections of the law applicable to samples (Section 2925.01 (<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2925>), 3719.81 (<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3719.81>) of the Revised Code and 21 U.S.C. 353, Section 503). Basically, if the veterinarian receives the drug free of charge, he or she must prescribe the drug free of charge and must be distributed in the original container. Mr. Winsley clarified that if the veterinarian wishes to change the prescribed dosage on the sample's label, he or she should provide written instructions to accompany the sample (it does not have to be directly on the sample) and document in the record what was provided and the instructions. Mr. Winsley also indicated that veterinarians should maintain a record of samples accepted and distributed. Upon a question from the OVMA liaison, Mr. Winsley indicated that if a veterinarian opens a sample for distribution to a patient, the remainder of the sample must be used for THAT patient or discarded.

Another issue: veterinarians supplying drugs to another veterinarian—which is NOT permitted. Section 4729.29(A) ORC authorizes a prescriber (veterinarian) to personally furnish to the prescriber's patient. Mr. Winsley did state that the Board would take into consideration a truly emergent situation and the veterinarian must use good judgment in considering the health and welfare of a patient.

In a question regarding compounding, Mr. Winsley indicated that the FDA is primarily concerned with food animals and compounding products.

Relating to a veterinary-client-patient relationship and prescription refills, Mr. Winsley referred the issue back to the Veterinary Medical Licensing Board to determine a valid VCPR. He did indicate that for physicians and controlled substances, for Schedule II drugs, there were no refills allowed; for Schedule III and IV, can refill 5 times in a six month period; and for Schedule V or non-controllables, could prescribe up to one year.