Cleveland Clinic
Akron General
PHARMACY

Pharmacy Residency Policy - Licensure in Ohio

Target Group: Cleveland Clinic Akron General Medical Center - Pharmacy		Original Date of Issue: Not Set	Version 6
Approved by: AGMC Board Policy Committee	**Date Last Approved/Reviewed:** 11/12/2025	**Prepared by:** Christopher Ensley (Manager Inpatient Pharmacy)	**Effective Date** 11/12/2025

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Purpose

In accordance with the Licensure/Certification/Clinical Competency Policy, this document outlines the Ohio Pharmacy Licensure expectations for all pharmacy residents during post-graduate year 1 (PGY1) and post-graduate year 2 (PGY2).

Policy Statement

All pharmacy residents must successfully be licensed as a pharmacist by the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy in a timely manner, including reciprocation.

Definitions

Cleveland Clinic Akron General Medical Center: Includes Akron General Main Campus and any and all Akron General provider-based locations.

ACPE - Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education

NAPLEX - North American Pharmacy Licensure Examination

MPJE - Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination

Policy Implementation

All pharmacy residents must successfully be licensed as a pharmacist by the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy in a timely manner, including reciprocation.

1. All pharmacy residents must have graduated from an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) accredited School of Pharmacy and be licensed in the State of Ohio; or have a Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) certificate from the NABP. Note: An FPGEC certificate indicates that the candidate graduated from a pharmacy school outside of the Unites States and is eligible for pharmacist licensure.
2. Residents should contact the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy as soon as possible after the Match to determine pharmacist licensure requirements. Residents are responsible for determining and completing Ohio intern hour requirements necessary to be eligible to sit for Pharmacist Licensure Examinations.
3. If a pharmacy resident does not hold a Pharmacist License in Ohio or in another state, they must obtain an Ohio Pharmacy Intern License.
    a. Residents do not need an Ohio Intern License if they hold a current/active Pharmacist License in another state while waiting for reciprocity to be determined by Ohio State Board of Pharmacy.
        i. Pharmacy licensure via reciprocity must be obtained within the first 90 days of hired start date
            1. Candidates should check the Ohio Board of Pharmacy website for reciprocity hearing schedules and ensure attendance within the 90-day time frame.
        ii. If an Ohio Pharmacy Intern License is not obtained by the hired start date, the resident will be dismissed from the program. Residents must maintain an Ohio Pharmacy Intern License until a Pharmacist License in Ohio is obtained.
        iii. Until the resident is licensed in Ohio, they must work under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist.
4. All pharmacy residents should obtain their Ohio Pharmacist License prior to orientation or as soon as possible after starting orientation.
5. Residents must obtain an Ohio Pharmacist License within the first 90 days of hired start date.
    a. Residents should be scheduled to take their initial pharmacist licensure examination by July 1st to allow adequate time for re-testing in the event the resident does not pass the initial examination. The Residency Program Director needs to be contacted as soon as possible if there are issues scheduling examinations prior to the July 1st deadline.
    b. If re-testing is required, the examination(s) must be scheduled for at least 7 business days prior to the 90-day mark to account for turnaround time needed to obtain results and licensure issuance.
    c. For NAPLEX, after a failed attempt, please refer to NAPLEX standards regarding waiting period for the next attempt.
    d. For MPJE, after a failed attempt, there is a 30-day waiting period for next attempt at the MPJE (the starting period begins the day you take the exam, not from the date of score availability).

e. Failure to obtain a State of Ohio Pharmacist License by August 1st may impact resident's schedule (e.g., decrease in number of electives or being placed on non-patient facing learning experiences such as Administration Medication Safety or Drug Information), and may extend the residency program length to meet successful completion requirements (i.e., number of weekend staffing shifts required by the program).

6. Failure to pass State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Pharmacist Licensure requirements within and obtain licensure within first 90 days of hired start date will result in termination from the residency program. Exceptions (e.g., medical leave of absence in accordance with Pharmacy Residency Leave of Absence Procedure) will be considered on an individual basis. If exception is approved, the residency will be extended by the amount of time as the extension (e.g., up to 12 weeks based on Pharmacy Residency Leave of Absence Procedure) to ensure that the resident completes 52 weeks of training and completes two-thirds of the residency as a licensed pharmacist. Managers or designee are responsible for performing primary source verification of a resident's license within first 90 days of hired start date.

    a. If a resident should require a leave of absence prior to successful completion of licensure examinations, initial or repeat licensure examinations may not be taken during the time of leave.
        a. Time remaining between the date of leave until the 90-day mark would be extended from the time of return to residency.

    b. The manager or designee is responsible for performing primary source verification of renewal no later than the expiration of the credentials.

    c. Manager or designee will retain a copy of the website screen print, dated no later than the expiration date in the resident's departmental file, and submit it to Human Resources.

7. PGY2 pharmacy residents must show proof of certificate of completion for a post-graduate Year 1 (PGY1) residency within the first 30 days of hire. Failure to produce certificate of completion for a post-graduate Year 1 (PGY1) residency will result in dismissal from the residency program.

    a. PGY2 residents must bring in a copy of the certificate of completion for a post-graduate Year 1 (PGY1) residency (e.g., graduation certificate).

    b. If needed, the pharmacy manager or designee will contact PGY1 residency program to verify the primary source.

8. Residents are responsible to maintain current pharmacist licensure, certification, and/or clinical competencies as required by their position as outlined in the Licensure/Certification/Clinical Competency Policy. Continued employment is contingent upon maintaining current credentials.

Regulatory Requirement/References

State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Licensure as a Pharmacist by Examination. Available from https://pharmacy.ohio.gov/Licensing/Pharmacist.aspx (Accessed October 22, 2025).

NAPLEX - https://nabp.pharmacy/programs/examinations/naplex/ (Accessed October 22, 2025).

Licensure/Certification/Clinical Competency Policy

Oversight and Responsibility

The Department of Pharmacy is responsible to review, revise, update, and operationalize this policy to maintain compliance with regulatory or other requirements.