**TEMPLATE – Article (newsletter)**

(insert organization’s name) will be participating in the statewide Smart RX - Smart Medicine and Responsible Treatment program, an evidence-based education program on opioid regulations in Ohio and guideline recommendations.

Through the Ohio Hospital Association and the Coverys Community Healthcare Foundation, (insert organization’s name) is able to provide this complimentary training for our physicians and advanced practice providers to enroll in the Smart RX course and to earn CME credits.

Developed by the Ohio State Medical Association, Smart Rxis an advanced learning tool to help health care professionals combat Ohio’s prescription drug abuse and subsequent opioid addiction problem. The Smart Rx online training program pairs the latest expertise on reducing prescription drug abuse with online training techniques designed for today’s busy medical professional. Smart Rx consists of four 15-minute interactive modules that cover:

* Regulation and legislation
* How to Stay Compliant
* Educating Patients
* Alternatives to Prescribing

These modules are accessible from your computer, smartphone or tablet and are available any time. Visit (insert link here) for more information and to get started.

(Insert organization’s name here) is committed to you as a provider and an employee. Please take 60-minutes to protect yourself and your patients.

(Insert information regarding training schedule/implementation)

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db329-h.pdf), from 1999-2016, over 690,000 people died of a drug overdose in the United States. More than 10 percent of those occurred in 2016 alone, and opioids were involved in two thirds of those deaths. Ohio is at the forefront of this crisis. Drug overdoses in Ohio claimed the lives of 5,115 Ohioans in 2017 and Ohio ranks second in per capita overdose deaths in the U.S. Opioid overdose encounters, though, speak to the ongoing burden of addiction to individuals, families and communities. In 2017, Ohio hospitals had 34,386 opioid overdose encounters—nearly double those seen in 2015 and projections for 2025 are over 90,000 opioid overdoses if current trends continue.