

OBRA '90 Patient Counseling Components

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (OBRA '90), which mandates the offer to counsel patients about their prescriptions, also specifies the *components* of patient counseling.

If the patient accepts the offer to counsel, the following items should be addressed:

- Name of drug
- Intended use and expected action
- Route, dosage form, dosage, and administration schedule
- Common side effects that may be encountered, including their avoidance and the action required if they occur
- Techniques for self-monitoring of drug therapy
- Proper storage
- Potential drug-drug or drug-food interactions or other therapeutic contraindications
- Prescription refill information
- Action to be taken in the event of a missed dose

While the law was intended for Medicaid beneficiaries, each state had the option to adopt rules making it applicable to other patients as well. Since the passage of this law, pharmacies have adopted the “offer to counsel” as a standard business practice to ensure that they offer all patients the same level of service.

Note: Individual states may have additional requirements related to patient counseling. Check with your state board of pharmacy for more information.

Source: Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. Public Law 101-508, S4401, 1927(g). November 5, 1990. Available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. Accessed April 30, 2010.

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