

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF PHARMACY

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APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

AVAILABILITY OF NEWSLETTERS:

Please post or make this newsletter available to all pharmacy employees. It will also be available at the Board of Pharmacy website, www.mbp.state.ms.us.

ANNUAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE INVENTORY:

As required by regulation, every pharmacy in Mississippi that maintains and dispenses controlled substances shall conduct an annual controlled substance inventory between May 1 and May 15, or at some other time to conform with DEA regulations. Please include prescription items containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine and butalbital as they are now included in Schedule III and any medication containing carisoprodol (Soma) and tramadol (Ultram) as they are now included in Schedule IV. A copy of the annual controlled substance inventory should be maintained with the other controlled substance records of the facility.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION RENEWALS:

Those technicians applying for or obtaining a **new** registration on or after April 1, 2011, are required to successfully pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Exam (PTCB) or the ExCpt Exam prior to their first renewal of the registration. Thereafter, this Certification must be maintained as specified or required by the examining authority. If proof of certification is **NOT** included with the technicians renewal application the renewal packet will be returned and the registration will be considered null and void.

Any Pharmacy Technician registration that has not been renewed by March 31, 2012, becomes null and void after that date and the Technician shall not perform Pharmacy Technician duties in the pharmacy dispensing or drug storage area until such time as the registration is renewed.

Each Technician registered by the Board must notify the Board in writing within ten (10) days of change of employment or change of address. The notification shall contain his/her name, new mailing address, registration number, the name of the pharmacy where formerly employed and the name of the pharmacy where currently employed or the current employment status (including the fact that you may not be working as a Technician.)

If a Technician fails to notify the Board office of changes in his/her employment status, the Board will assess back fees. The Board will not grant exceptions to this policy.

PRESCRIPTION TRANSFERS:

According to ARTICLE XV, ISSUANCE AND RECEIPT OF PRESCRIPTION COPIES, of the Pharmacy Practice Regulations, prescriptions for drugs which are

controlled substances as defined by the Mississippi Uniform Controlled Substances Law shall not be transferred. Prescriptions for non-controlled drugs may be transferred orally by telephone or electronically **by pharmacists** between pharmacies for the purpose of refill dispensing provided certain procedures are followed. Pharmacy Technicians are not authorized to transfer prescriptions between pharmacies under any conditions.

PBM DIVISION REPORT:

The 2011 legislative session moved the responsibility of licensing and regulation of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM's) under the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy. As a result, the new PBM Division of the Board was created. In 2011 we began the process of licensing PBM's. We now have 43 PBM's licensed and we are continuing to work toward increasing that number. The licensing process we have developed provides contact information for us for the licensed PBM's. We have already been able to address and resolve some issues that affect Pharmacy in Mississippi. This licensing process, along with additional legislative guidelines, offers us tools to provide additional protection for all Pharmacies with our goal of enabling Mississippi Pharmacists to provide better Patient Care, Patient Safety and Patient Services.

It is important to note that we will not be able to resolve all PBM issues, but it is also important that we are made aware of PBM issues and problems. We ask you to be familiar with Mississippi PBM legislation and to notify us of issues that affect you and your patients. Documentation of any issue is required. A phone call or message is not sufficient. Please send all documentation, preferably by e-mail communication, to the attention of:

Steve Parker, PBM Administrator
Mississippi Board of Pharmacy
sparker@mbp.ms.gov
Office Phone: 601-605-5388

PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM:

The month of March saw 18,851 queries made to the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) for Patient Profiles alone. The Board encourages more Pharmacist utilization of the Program. We all have a part in preventing prescription drug abuse. Sign up for system access by going to the Board of Pharmacy website and clicking on the Prescription Monitoring link on the bottom left of the page. There is also a PMP Tutorial available detailing sign up and system use that has been approved for one (1) continuing education (CE) credit by the Board. The top five controlled substance quantities dispensed in March were hydrocodone @ 9,640,835, alprazolam @ 2,812,066, tramadol @ 2,551,725, oxycodone @ 1,314,044 and zolpidem @ 1,221,731. Please remember, your dispensing activity is due once every seven (7) days. Please direct questions concerning the PMP to dbrown@mbp.ms.gov or by calling 601-898-1990.

VACCINATION INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The new Immunization Requirement Announced for 7th Grade Entry in the 2012-2013 School Year must be entered into the Mississippi Immunization Information eXchange (MIIX) system. Please contact Christie D. Levy at the Mississippi State Department of Health to enroll by calling 601-576-7751 or 800-634-9251.