



# Alabama State Board of Pharmacy

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Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

## **Lynda C. Staggs Appointed to Alabama State Board of Pharmacy**

Lynda C. Staggs, RPh, was elected to a five-year term on the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy, effective January 1, 2001. She replaced George T. Bolling.

Lynda grew up in Heflin, Ala, and attended Cleburne County High School. She graduated from Samford University School of Pharmacy in 1966. She has always loved drug stores, starting with working behind a soda fountain at age 14. Lynda began her pharmacy career at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the satellite pharmacies at Spain Rehabilitation and the Diabetes Hospital. Other practice sites included the Jefferson County Bureau of Mental Health and Parkview Village long-term care facility in Huntsville.

Lynda has retail experience as an employee in both chain and independent stores and as the owner of Whitesport Pharmacy for seven years. She is currently employed by Medical Arts Pharmacy in Huntsville as a compounding pharmacist. She is a consultant for Hospice, teaches at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and lectures regularly on pain management and medication use by the elderly. She is past president of the Madison County Pharmaceutical Society and now serves as the American Pharmaceutical Association chairman of the Pharmacy Education Partnership Committee.

## **Controlled Substances Prescription Changes**

The following response was provided by the US Drug Enforcement Administration with respect to what pharmacists may change on a prescription written for Schedule II-V controlled substances:

The majority of changes can be made only after the pharmacist contacts the prescribing practitioner. After consultation with the prescribing practitioner, the pharmacist is permitted to add the dosage form or change the patient's address, drug strength, drug quantity, and directions for use. The pharmacist is permitted to make informational additions that are provided by the patient or bearer, such as the patient's address, and such additions should be verified.

The pharmacist is never permitted to make changes to the patient's name, the controlled substance prescribed (ex-

cept for generic substitution permitted by state law), or the prescriber's signature. These type of changes challenge the necessity of the original prescription and would require a new prescription from the prescribing practitioner.

## **Alabama Board Honors 50-Year Pharmacists**

This year, a number of pharmacists will reach the milestone of 50 years of licensure in Alabama. The Board of Pharmacy recognizes these pharmacists and is grateful for their years of contribution to the pharmacy profession. These individuals may take great pride in being part of such an ancient and honorable profession for so long.

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Joseph Cephus Almond, Jr | Jeffie Cowart McLemore  |
| Roy Roscoe Anderson      | Willard Daniel Martin   |
| William Coleman Booth    | John Fitzgerald Miller  |
| Richard Wayne Boozer, Sr | Ewin Moody              |
| John Frank Brodie        | Richard Henry Neighbors |
| Willard Lane Burt        | Dwight Jackson Norris   |
| William Robert Clark     | G.W. Purdy              |
| Edward Eugene Culver     | Alfred Carl Putteet     |
| Max O. Day               | Joseph Ford Reagan      |
| James Frank Dykes        | Almon Stoddard Rockwell |
| Donald Boyce Farnham     | Robert Earl Scarborough |
| James Otis Goff, Jr      | Joseph Meyer Stammer    |
| Malvin Ursa Goldstein    | Lewis Lamar Stapleton   |
| Xanthi Hahamis Grammas   | Laura Doan Turner       |
| Molly Grey Holland       | David Thurman Vick      |
| Thomas Dwight Jones      | Don Willard Walker      |
| Jack Kelley              | James Fred Yeager       |
| Franklin Daniel Little   |                         |

## **Anti-Tuberculosis Drugs**

Rule 420-4-1-.04 of the Alabama State Board of Health states in part – "Any pharmacist dispensing anti-tuberculosis medication shall report this information to the county health officer. Tuberculosis is designated as a Group A notifiable disease,

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meaning cases should be reported within 24 hours of diagnosis or suspicion. Since receiving anti-tuberculosis medication implies that a person has a suspected case of tuberculosis, pharmacists must, at a minimum, report the name and address of the person to whom they have dispensed such medication. Reporting the case enables the health department to track and prevent the spread of tuberculosis and assure that patients are provided optimal and curative therapy.

### Filling Prescriptions for Large Quantities of Controlled Substances

A pharmacist may legally fill a controlled substance prescription issued for a large quantity under certain conditions. First, laws or regulations in some states may limit the quantity of controlled substances that may be dispensed. Some states limit the dispensing of a controlled drug to a 34-day supply, or 120 doses. Second, dispensing a prescription for an unreasonably large quantity of controlled substances may raise the issue of lack of good faith on the part of the pharmacist filling the prescription. However, the fact that a large quantity of a drug is prescribed does not necessarily indicate that the prescription is not legitimate. In such cases, the pharmacist should check with the prescriber to verify the quantity and ascertain the reason for it. The fact should be documented on the prescription or another readily retrievable record. If the same practitioner continues to prescribe excessive quantities, the pharmacist may refuse to fill the prescription in compliance with 21 CFR §1 306.04(a). However, the pharmacist must use professional judgment since a patient's medical condition may necessitate a large quantity of the drug.

### Predated/Postdated Prescriptions

A controlled substance prescription may not be legally predated or postdated. 21 CFI, §1 306.05 requires that a prescription be dated with the date of issuance. Although federal regulations require a controlled substance prescription be dated on the date issued, there is no prohibition against filling a controlled substance prescription several days after its issuance, provided that is done in good faith. In the case of a prescription

for a controlled substance presented for filling several days or weeks after issuance, the pharmacist may use his or her discretion in determining whether it is necessary to contact the prescriber to ascertain whether there is a legitimate medical need.

### 2001 Renewals

All licenses issued by the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy expire on December 31 of each year. If you have not renewed your license for 2001, it will become delinquent on the last day of February.

### New Drug Inspector

On November 20, 2000, an additional drug inspector began work with the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy. He will be located in Birmingham and will work out of the Board office. Glenn A. Wells was previously employed with Books A Million, Inc, in Birmingham as the director of loss prevention. He lives in Trussville with his wife, Temple, and has five children, Heather, 22; Jennifer and Holly, 21; Stephanie, 13; and Will, 10.

### Board Members for 2001

- Tom Alford**, President ..... Birmingham
- Sam Costello**, Vice President ..... Decatur
- Jim Justice**, Treasurer ..... Atmore
- Clay Wilson**, Member ..... Birmingham
- Lynda Staggs**, Member ..... Huntsville
- Jerry Moore**, Secretary ..... Birmingham

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