

May 2004



Alabama State Board of Pharmacy

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Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

Pharmacy Technicians

There still seems to be some confusion as to who needs to register with the Board as a technician. The Alabama State Board of Pharmacy has ruled that any person who is in the pharmacy and is handling medications, whether putting up stock or assisting in the filling of a prescription, must be registered with the Board. Any individual who solely acts as a cashier and does not perform any other functions in the pharmacy is not required to be registered as a technician. If at any time you are unsure as to whether or not a person needs to be registered, call the Board office and we will be glad to assist you.

Another issue that has been addressed by the Board is technicians who do not properly renew their registration annually. **State law prohibits a technician from working without being properly registered with the Board of Pharmacy.** If your registration is not current, you cannot work until it is renewed and in hand. If you are a new hire, you must have your registration in hand before beginning pharmacy technician duties. Contrary to popular belief, there is no grace period for technicians to work before becoming registered with the Board. Inspectors for the Board are on the lookout for this whenever they walk into a pharmacy. Fines ranging from \$125 for the nonregistered technician, \$250 for the supervising pharmacist, and \$500 for the permit holder will be incurred for those who do not abide by the law.

The supervising pharmacist is responsible for making sure all staff is properly registered and identified with the Board. **Do not allow technicians to work without being properly registered with the Board.**

Office-based Opiate Addiction Treatment – The Pharmacist's Role

Suboxone[®] and Subutex[®] are sublingual tablets indicated for the treatment of opioid dependence. Suboxone contains buprenorphine (a partial agonist at the mu-opioid receptor and an antagonist at the kappa-opioid receptor) and naloxone (an antagonist at the mu-opioid receptor). Subutex contains buprenorphine only.

For the first time, pharmacists will play a role in the delivery of opiate addiction treatment. Suboxone and Subutex are the first medications approved for office-based treatment of opioid dependence under the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA). Prior to the passage of this law, it was illegal for a doctor to prescribe narcotic drugs for the treatment of narcotic dependence. Opioid dependence treatment of this type could only be provided

at specially registered clinics. Under the new law, only opiate addiction treatment drugs under Schedule II are confined to use in the clinic setting. Less tightly controlled drugs (Schedules III-V) may be prescribed for opiate addiction treatment by specially qualified doctors who treat patients in their private offices.

To be qualified, physicians must:

◆ Meet one or more of the following training requirements:

- ◆ Hold a subspecialty board certification in addiction psychiatry from the American Board of Medical Specialties;
- ◆ Hold a subspecialty board certification in addiction medicine from the American Osteopathic Association;
- ◆ Hold an addiction certification from the American Society of Addiction Medicine; or
- ◆ Have completed not less than eight hours of authorized training on the treatment or management of opioid-dependent patients. This training may include classroom situations, seminars at professional society meetings, electronic communications or other media. The American Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, and the American Psychiatric Association are all authorized to provide this training.

◆ **And** must meet both of the following criteria:

- ◆ Have the capacity to provide or to refer patients for necessary ancillary services, such as psychosocial therapy; and
- ◆ Agree to treat no more than 30 patients at any one time in their individual or group practice.

Physicians who meet the qualification criteria listed above must also notify the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services of their intent to prescribe Suboxone and Subutex before doing so. Once all relevant criteria are verified, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will issue the physician a unique identification number indicating that he or she is a qualifying physician under DATA. The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), a component of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will send a letter informing the physician of the new DEA identification number. The physician will subsequently receive a revised DEA registra-

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tion certificate (showing both numbers). Pharmacists who see information to verify whether or not physicians have valid waivers may call 1-866/BUP-CSAT or e-mail info@buprenorphine.samhsa.gov.

Administrative Hearings – January 2004 Through March 2004

Technicians' names: **Nicole Jean Ponziano** #T09554; **Mary Ann Durham** #T00303; **Betty E. Martin** #T00225; **Amanda Allen Isbell** #T06804. Dispensing CS Schedule III and V without a prescription. Action – Revoked.

Pharmacist's name: **Elizabeth Grace Dial O'Connor** #14372. Allowed individual not registered as a pharmacy technician to be present in the pharmacy department. Action – Probation one (1) year/\$1,000 administrative fine.

Technician's name: **Mary Ardell Melton** #T03812. Submitting to the Board a false statement. Action – Probation six (6) months/\$100 administrative fine.

Pharmacist's name: **Robert Clay Cox** #9278. Dispensing CS Schedule III without a prescription. Action – Suspended five (5) years/ may apply for reversion to probation after one (1) year/retake Pharmacy Licensing Examination/\$5,000 administrative fine.

Pharmacist's name: **Terrence Jamal Powe** #12533. Substituting and dispensing a different drug or brand in lieu of that ordered or prescribed without the express permission of an authorized practitioner. Action – \$500 administrative fine.

Manufacturer/Wholesaler/Distributor's name: **Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Inc**, Permit Number 192472; 192416; 192300; 192372. Engaging in activities as a manufacturer/wholesaler/distributor without first renewing their permits. Action – \$4,000 administrative fines.

Technician's name: **Wykenia Vaniece Cooper** #T10987. Dispensing CS Schedule III without a prescription. Action – Revoked.

Pharmacy's name: **Gulf South Pharmacy** #112081. Allowing someone other than a licensed pharmacist to have possession of key to pharmacy. Action – \$1,000 administrative fine.

Pharmacists' names: **Jodi C. Silvio** #11017; **Roger A. Everett** #4764. Allowing someone other than a licensed pharmacist to have possession of key to pharmacy. Action – \$1,000 administrative fine.

Technicians' names: **Tiffani Lindsey O'Dell** #T05173; **Rae Schmidt Walker** #T13341. Present in prescription department

while not under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist. Action – \$500 administrative fine.

Pharmacist's name: **Fred R. Harwell** #14489. Practicing pharmacy without a current license. Action – Probation one (1) year/\$250 administrative fine.

Technician's name: **Jennifer Hayes** #T01121. Stealing various merchandise from pharmacy. Action – Revoked.

Pharmacist's name: **James Perry Scarborough, Jr** #10591. Dispensing CS Schedule III and/or IV without a prescription. Action – Suspended ten (10) years/after one (1) year may apply for a hearing to consider reverting Suspension to Probation/\$16,500 administrative fine.

Scheduled Board Meetings for 2004:

May 19-20	June 15-16
July 20-21	August 17-18
September 28-29	October 26-27
November 16-17	December 16

Do You Know a Pharmacist or Technician Who Needs Help?

Call the Committee on Rehabilitating Impaired Pharmacists help line at the voice mail of Steve Moore at 205/975-8548. All calls are confidential.

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