

Alabama State Board of Pharmacy

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Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

Executive Director Jerry Moore, JD, RPh, is NABP President

Alabama State Board of Pharmacy Executive Director **Jerry Moore, JD, RPh**, began his term as president of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) at the conclusion of the Association's 96th Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tenn, following a one-year term as president-elect. When his presidential term ends at the conclusion of NABP's 97th Annual Meeting in May 2001, Mr Moore will serve an additional year as chairman of the Association's Executive Committee. Prior to his election, Mr Moore completed a term as the Association's treasurer, and was a member of NABP's Executive Committee for three years.

Mr Moore has actively participated on many NABP committees and task forces. Most recently, he served as the Executive Committee liaison to NABP's Task Force to Examine the Quality and Standards of Internship Requirements, and the Association's Committee on Resolutions. He is the former chair of the Task Force to Study Pharmacists' Workload.

Mr Moore has received many awards honoring his contributions to the profession of pharmacy, including the Wyeth-Ayerst Bowl of Hygeia, the National Community Pharmacist Association (formerly NARD) Leadership Award, and the Merck, Sharp & Dohme Pharmacy Achievement Award. A graduate of Samford University and Saint Bernard College, he has also been recognized as an American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA) Fellow, and was recently awarded a law degree from the Birmingham School of Law.

Pharmacy Technician Registration

The Board inspectors have discovered a number of instances where persons were acting as pharmacy technicians and failed to register with the Board. **The supervising pharmacist is responsible for ensuring that any person who performs tasks as a pharmacy technician is registered prior to performing technician functions.** The Board has been very lenient in enforcing compliance with this regulation; however, continued noncompliance may result in action against you.

The registration of a pharmacy technician shall be renewable annually upon payment of the required fee. If any pharmacy technician fails to pay a renewal fee on or before the last day of February of any year, such registration shall become null and

void, and the holder of such registration may be reinstated as a pharmacy technician only upon payment of the registration fee and a penalty of \$10.

Substitution of Drugs

The Board of Pharmacy continues to receive complaints from physicians who write prescriptions and sign it "dispense as written" but find their patients are dispensed a generic drug.

Two recent complaints were received, one from an ophthalmologist who performs corneal transplants. On numerous occasions, his patients have returned to his office after surgery with more edema than he felt they should have. After checking the patient's prescription bottle, he continually finds that although he wrote a prescription for Pred Forte "dispense as written," the prescription is being filled with generic 1% prednisolone acetate. Several "warning" notices have been issued regarding substitution but, unfortunately, this has not resolved the problem. Therefore, the only alternative is to file administrative charges against the pharmacist(s), who will be required to appear before the Board at an administrative hearing.

The second unauthorized substitution is for Lasix, which although being prescribed "dispense as written," is continually being filled with furosemide. This complaint was brought to the Board by a cardiovascular surgeon who feels that furosemide is not pharmaceutically and therapeutically equivalent to Lasix.

Invoices and Acquisition of Controlled Substances

In addition to those records required under federal laws and regulations and under provisions of the Alabama Uniform Controlled Substances Act, all receipts of controlled substances by a pharmacy shall be reviewed and approved by a pharmacist. Said review and approval shall be documented by the signature of a pharmacist employed by the pharmacy permit holder on the supplier's invoice or other similar document.

Supervising Pharmacist

When one accepts the responsibility of the supervising pharmacist, it should not be taken lightly. The supervising pharmacist accepts the responsibility for the prescription department, personnel, records, and security. He or she is also responsible for assuring good pharmacy practice and compliance with all laws and regulations.

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When a pharmacist assumes the duties of the supervising pharmacist, he or she must notify the Board within ten (10) days. Also, the new supervising pharmacist must take an inventory of all controlled substances to establish a baseline of responsibility for these drugs.

Address Changes

Every pharmacist and technician who changes his or her residential address should notify the Board office by letter. This notice will ensure that you receive your license renewal notice, which will be mailed later this year. If you do not receive your renewal notice because you have moved, or for any other reason, you are still subject to the penalty fee. Protect your license/registration and give it the care that it deserves.

Controlled Drugs to a Physician's Office for the Practice – Not by Prescription

A pharmacy is permitted to supply controlled drugs to a physician's office provided the physician executes an order form for Schedule II drugs. Distribution of C-III, IV, and V drugs to the physician's office by a pharmacy must be evidenced by an invoice or other document. One copy must be retained by the physician. No controlled substance drugs may be supplied to an office by prescription made out "for office use," or any manner for patient and intended for office use.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Can a pharmacy take a prescription back once it has been dispensed?

No licensed pharmacist or pharmacy operating within this state shall accept for refund purposes or otherwise any unused portion of any dispensed prescription. (Code of Alabama 1975, Practice of Pharmacy Act 205, §34-23-70(c))

2) Can a pharmacy authorize a "pick-up" station?

No pharmacy shall authorize any person, firm, or business establishment to serve as a pick-up station or intermediary for the purpose of having prescriptions filled or delivered, whether for profit or gratuitously. (Code of Alabama 1975, Practice of Pharmacy Act 205, §34-23-70(e))

3) Can a pharmacy or pharmacist supply a practitioner a prescription blank with the name and address of the pharmacy/pharmacist?

No prescription blank supplied by a pharmacy or pharmacist to a practitioner shall bear the imprint thereon of the name or address of any pharmacy or bear the name or address of any person registered under this chapter. (Code of Alabama 1975, Practice of Pharmacy Act 205, §34-23-70(f))

4) How long is a pharmacy required to keep prescription file(s)?

A prescription file or files shall be kept by every pharmacy for a period of not less than two years in which the original of every prescription compounded or dispensed shall be filed in the order of compounding with number and date of dispensing placed on each prescription. Each pharmacy shall produce any prescription file whenever legally required to do so. Such prescription files shall at all times be open for inspection by the prescriber, the Board of Pharmacy, or its inspectors. (Code of Alabama 1975, Practice of Pharmacy Act 205, §34-23-70(k))

Scheduled Board Meetings for Rest of 2000

August 1	September 26-27
October 24	November 28-29
	December 27

Alabama State Board of Pharmacy's Web Site

The Alabama State Board of Pharmacy's Web site contains all the pharmacy laws, forms for registration, and other pertinent information, which we hope will be useful to pharmacists. Our Web site address is: www.albop.com.

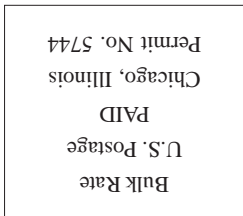
Do You Know a Pharmacist Who Needs Help?

Call the Committee on Rehabilitating Impaired Pharmacists (CORIP) help line at the confidential voice mail for Cathy Seagle at 205/975-8548. All calls are confidential.

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