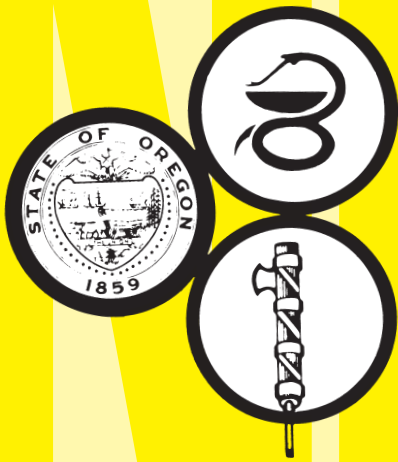


November 2007



Oregon State Board of Pharmacy

Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

800 NE Oregon St, Suite 150
Portland, OR 97232

No. 422: Board of Pharmacy Appointment

On July 1, 2008, a vacancy will exist on the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy for a pharmacist member. Marc Watt, who has been a Board member since 1999, will complete his second and final four-year term on June 30, 2008. The Board, by law, is composed of seven members including five pharmacists and two public members who are not pharmacists. Members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate to serve a four-year term on the Board, and may be reappointed for a second four-year term. No Board member may serve more than two consecutive full terms.

To qualify for the pharmacist-member position a person must, at the time of appointment, be an Oregon resident, be licensed in good standing to practice pharmacy in the state, be engaged in the practice of pharmacy in the state, and have five years experience in the practice of pharmacy in the state after licensure.

Under Oregon law, Oregon Revised Statutes 689.115, the Oregon State Pharmacy Association (OSPA) may assemble a task force to develop and provide a list of five nominations for recommendation to the governor. If you are qualified and interested in being considered for a position on the Board, you may contact the OSPA office or contact the governor's office of executive appointments directly. For information on state boards and commissions, interest forms, and instructions, visit the governor's Web site at www.oregon.gov/Gov/boards.shtml.

No. 423: Tamper-Resistant Prescription Forms

The controversy and uncertainty that reigned over the initial implementation period for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) tamper-resistant prescription requirement has been given a reprieve. This requirement, which was quietly included in section 7002(b) of the US Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007, was signed into law on May 25. The requirement was scheduled for implementation on October 1, 2007. Many questions have been posed regarding the procedures and timing for implementation, and concerns were expressed about the ability of prescribers and pharmacists to implement the requirement by October 1. The Board of Pharmacy has been working closely with the Oregon Division of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP) and CMS to clarify the requirements and to work out the details of implementation.

On August 27, 2007, the Board adopted rules defining *electronically transmitted prescriptions* and *tamper-resistant prescriptions* to assist DMAP, Oregon prescribers, and Oregon pharmacists in identifying whether particular prescription forms are in compliance with the requirement. It is important to note that this requirement for the use of tamper-resistant prescription forms is not a requirement for prescribing, dispensing, or receipt and storage of prescription information under the Oregon Pharmacy Practice Act. It is simply a requirement for reimbursement for Medicaid prescriptions pursuant to the recent amendment to the Social Security Act, which prohibits payment for written prescriptions unless they are written on a tamper-resistant form.

With just days remaining before the required implementation date, Congress passed S.2085, Patient and Pharmacy Protection Act of 2007, which granted a six-month delay in the implementation of the tamper-resistant requirement. Questions continue to be asked regarding particular details, but the deadline pressure has been lifted. The new date for implementation is April 1, 2008. The Board will continue to monitor the situation and work with CMS and the Oregon DMAP, and will post the most current information on the Board Web site.

No. 424: Prescription Description

By Kate Farthing, PharmD, Oregon Health and Science University and Gary Schnabel, RPh, RN, Oregon State Board of Pharmacy, for the Oregonian's October 2007 American Pharmacists Month consumer education supplement.

Following a law passed in 2000, additional information began appearing on the medication labels of prescription products received by Oregonians beginning in 2002 from their pharmacies. The Accuracy Label, or Product Identification Label (PIL), is the first labeling requirement of its kind in the United States, calling for a physical description of the contents inside the prescription bottle, including the size, shape, color and any identification code that may appear on the tablet or capsule.

The Oregon Board of Pharmacy worked with pharmacy computer software companies to develop the technology to incorporate a product description for each item and print that descriptive information on the prescription label. Having the physical description of the product on the label helps improve

Continued on page 4

patient safety by reducing the possibility of an error in preparation or dispensing. As your pharmacist dispenses the medication to you, he or she discusses the product, and this discussion may include opening the bottle of medication to show that the characteristics of the product match the description on the prescription label. This information is also helpful to have at home – if you spill the contents of a bottle, or mix prescriptions together. Using the PIL will help you identify the medication by comparing the actual product to the description on the label.

Others involved in your health care also benefit from pharmacists including the PIL on your medication bottles. Emergency Room (ER) physicians frequently struggle to determine the medication products found on a patient who was involved in an accident, or for other reasons can not accurately describe the medications he or she may be taking. With a PIL on the prescription bottles, an ER physician or technician can quickly verify the contents of the products and take care of the patient appropriately.

The Oregon Board of Pharmacy consists of seven members, five practicing pharmacists and two public members, who are appointed by the Governor. The mission of the Oregon Board of Pharmacy is to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety and welfare by establishing high standards in the practice of pharmacy and regulating the quality and distribution of drugs and medical devices in the state. The entire Oregonian supplement celebrating American Pharmacists Month is available at www.oregonlive.com/ospecials.

No. 425: Certified Oregon Pharmacy Technicians

Currently in Oregon there are approximately 7,000 pharmacy technicians, nearly 2,000 of which are Certified Oregon Pharmacy Technicians. The August 2006 *Newsletter* detailed the requirements and timelines for pharmacy technician certification and licensure. Effective October 1, 2007, and thereafter, all persons who apply for a pharmacy technician license in Oregon will receive a one year non-renewable pharmacy technician license and will have a period of **one year** from the date of issue in which to obtain national certification and become licensed. To become licensed as a Certified Oregon Pharmacy Technician in Oregon an applicant must provide documentation to the Board that he or

she has taken and passed a national certification examination. Once national certification is obtained, a technician may apply for a Certified Oregon Pharmacy Technician license, which is renewable annually. Information and new application forms, which have been developed to reflect the different categories of licensure, can be found on the Board's Web site.

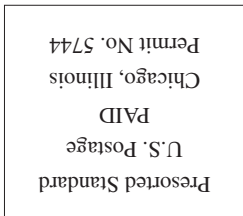
This is a reminder. Please plan ahead and make sure you have plenty of time to send in your examination application, take (and pass) the examination, receive your results, and submit your Certified Oregon Pharmacy Technician license application to the Board at least three weeks before your current non-renewable license expires. The Board has approved two national certification examinations, the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and the Institute for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians (ICPT). Current information including dates and details for application can be found on the Web sites for PTCB (www.ptcb.org) and ICPT (www.nationaltechexam.org).

No. 426: Board PIC Training Program

On September 27, 2007, the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy held its first pharmacist-in-charge training course in the Board's conference room. The class was full and the discussion was lively. Additional classes are now being scheduled. If you are interested in attending one of these classes, the upcoming dates and registration forms are posted on the Board's Web site at www.pharmacy.state.or.us/Pharmacy/PIC_Training.shtml. There is no cost for the class and you can obtain two hours of pharmacy law continuing education credit.

The *Oregon State Board of Pharmacy News* is published by the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation, Inc, to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of the Foundation or the Board unless expressly so stated.

Gary A. Schnabel, RPh - State News Editor
Carmen A. Catizone, MS, RPh, DPh - National News Editor
& Executive Editor
Larissa Doucette - Editorial Manager



National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation, Inc
1600 Fehanhville Drive
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
OREGON STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY