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SC Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation – Board of Pharmacy

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Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

Board Elections

At the June 2003 meeting, the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy members elected Rufus E. Sadler, RPh, as its new chairman. Mr Sadler is a pharmacist representing the Third Congressional District. J. Robert "Bobby" Bradham, RPh, was elected to serve as the vice-chairman. Mr Bradham is a pharmacist representing the First Congressional District. Each will serve a one-year term from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004. Congratulations!

Board of Pharmacy Welcomes New Investigator/Inspector

Ray Trotter, RPh, joined the staff of the Board of Pharmacy in February 2003 as a part-time investigator/inspector. He received his bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from the University of South Carolina. Mr Trotter came to the Board after retiring from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Drug Control, as a special investigator. He and his wife, Becky, reside in Lexington and have two daughters and one son. Welcome aboard, Ray!

Board of Pharmacy Congratulates New Senator

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy would like to congratulate former Board chairman and new Senator Ronnie Cromer, RPh. Mr Cromer was elected on April 15, 2003, and was sworn in by Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer on April 22, 2003, to fill the seat for Senate District 18. He was supported by Governor Mark Sanford during his campaign.

Mr Cromer is owner of Lo-Rex Drugs in Newberry, SC. He has been actively involved in advancing the pharmacy profession for many years, serving as a Board of Pharmacy member as well as serving with the South Carolina Pharmacy Association. He has a vision for South Carolina and provides leadership to the people of our state.

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy is proud to salute Mr Cromer and looks forward to his leadership.

Position Statement on the Importation of Drugs

The following position statement was adopted by the Board of Pharmacy at its June 2003 meeting:

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy, in the interest of protecting the health and well-being of the citizens of South

Carolina, cannot support the importation of drugs from foreign countries since consumers are exposed to a number of risks when they purchase drugs from Internet sites that are not licensed by the state of South Carolina and are operating without the assurances provided by licensing under state pharmacy laws or compliance with the protections provided by the United States government.

Updated Policy and Procedure #132

The Board of Pharmacy Compounding Task Force addresses all issues relating to compounding. At the Board's June 2003 meeting, the committee recommended an addition to existing policy #132. The Board adopted the change to Policy and Procedure #132, which now states:

The minimum requirements for a compounding pharmacy upon inspection shall include the verification of the source of chemicals, the ability to ascertain that the level of products delivered and the duty are equal, and that the facility is in compliance with compounding laws with appropriate record keeping, ie logs, calibrations. If compounding of sterile products exist, the pharmacy shall be in compliance with the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act and review USP guidelines regarding the compounding of sterile products and keep abreast of any new changes.

The minimum expected compliance for a pharmacist selling compounded products to a physician or licensed practitioner is that the pharmacist have a contract with the physician or licensed practitioner specifying that the compounded medications are for office administration only, and that lot numbers and expiration dates shall be maintained and readily retrievable on patient records/charts.

Testing requirements should center around the process in use as well as random product testing applicable to the practice site and specific product being compounded.

All sterile compounding personnel, (pharmacy technicians and pharmacists) must have proof of personal competency in the art of sterile compounding completed on an annual basis.

Pharmacy Technicians to Complete Continuing Education

Beginning with the 2004-2005 renewals, the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy will require **all pharmacy techni-**

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icians to report completion of 10 hours of continuing education (CE) on their renewal applications. A technician will not be allowed to renew without the required CE credits submitted. Of the 10 hours required, four must be live hours, completed through seminar, workshop, etc.

All CE must be American Council on Pharmaceutical Education or Continuing Medical Education, Category I approved. You may begin acquiring these hours now for that renewal period. Hours in excess of the requirement may be carried forward toward the next renewal period. The Board will conduct an audit of the CE submitted by randomly selecting pharmacy technicians on an annual basis.

You may contact the South Carolina Pharmacy Association for more information on continuing education programs. The Association can be reached at 803/354-9977 or www.scrx.org.

Registration for Out-of-State Applicants

When out-of-state graduates or reciprocity candidates apply for licensure in South Carolina, the Board of Pharmacy requests that those who will be residing in the state prior to issuance of their license become registered interns with the Board. There is a one-page application and a \$50 fee required to receive an intern certificate in this state. This registration allows the applicant to work in a pharmacy under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. Once the licensure process is completed, intern certificates can be returned to the Board. For questions, please contact the Board office.

DHEC Regulation Regarding Methadone

Amendments to Regulation 61-4 (SC Controlled Substances Regulation), effective June 27, 2003, repealed the notice of intent requirement to prescribe and dispense methadone for pain management.

Methadone may now be prescribed and dispensed as any other schedule II controlled substance for pain management. The physician is no longer required to send a notice of intent to prescribe methadone to [Department of Health and Environmental Control] DHEC and the pharmacy that will fill the prescriptions. The physician is only required to substantiate the use of methadone in the patient record, and to make such records available to DHEC upon request.

The amendments also increased the annual South Carolina Controlled Substances Registration fee for pharmacies and practitioners from \$100 to \$125, and for hospitals and methadone clinics from \$275 to \$325.

If you have any questions, please call Bureau Director Wilbur Harling at 803/896-0636.

Recovering Professionals Program

The Recovering Professional Program (RPP) is committed to the protection of the public safety through early identification of health professionals in need of alcohol and other drug abuse treatment and return to safe practice through appropriate referral, effective monitoring, rehabilitation, and recovery. RPP is a confidential monitoring program operated under the auspices of the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) for licensees of the South Carolina Board of Dentistry, the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, the South Carolina Board of Nursing and the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy in cooperation with the South Carolina Dental Association, the South Carolina Medical Association, the South Carolina Nurses Association, and the South Carolina Pharmacy Association.

Isolation, availability of drugs, and the physical demands of the pharmacy profession contribute to risk of substance abuse in pharmacists. These risks are most commonly associated with higher rates of depression, stress, long hours, divorce, and suicide among pharmacists as compared with other health professions. If you or someone you know is experiencing a problem associated with substance abuse, you may wish to contact RPP for assistance and guidance toward recovery. For more information, please contact RPP at **1-877/349-2094** toll-free, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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