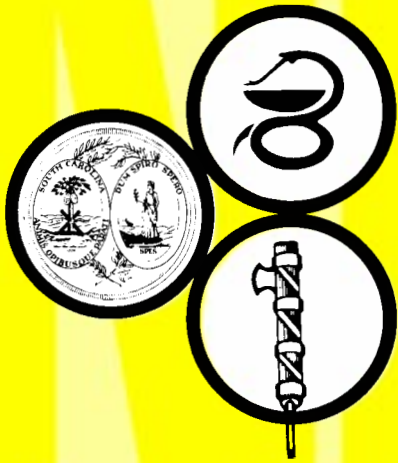


November 2000



# SC Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation- Board of Pharmacy

Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

Koger Office Park, 110 Centerview Drive  
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## **Board Appointment**

Governor James Hodges has appointed Leo Richardson, PhD, as the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy's lay member to serve coterminously with the appointing governor. Currently, Dr Richardson is the executive director of the Institute on Poverty and Deprivation for the state of South Carolina. Dr Richardson and his wife Mary Jane reside in Columbia. We welcome Dr Richardson to the Board.

## **Next Board Vacancy**

The next Board of Pharmacy member term begins July 1, 2001, and ends June 30, 2007. Any pharmacist interested in running as a candidate must:

- ◆ reside in the Fifth Congressional District;
- ◆ be licensed and actively practicing pharmacy in South Carolina; and
- ◆ before December 1, 2000, submit to the Board office a biography and a petition bearing the signatures of at least 15 pharmacists practicing in the Fifth Congressional District.

After receiving biographies and petitions, the Board administrator will:

- ◆ prepare and mail ballots by January 15, 2001, to all pharmacist licensed and residing in the Fifth Congressional District and who have certified on their last renewal application that they reside in the Fifth Congressional District; and
- ◆ certify as true and valid all ballots postmarked before February 15, 2001, and received by the Board office before February 25, 2001.

Before March 1, 2001, the Board will certify in writing to the governor the names of the three candidates receiving the most votes in the election along with the name of the person whom the nominee replaces on the Board. The new member, when appointed by the governor, takes office on July 1 of that year.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for this position, or have any questions, please contact the Board office.

## **CVS and Wal-Mart Join Lunch Break Initiative**

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy has been informed that CVS and Wal-Mart have instituted a 30-minute lunch break program for their pharmacists. The Board has acknowledged these corporate lunch break programs with the understanding that the program must comply with South Carolina Laws and Regulations that pertain to the practice of pharmacy.

## **Sample Authority for Nurse Practitioners**

Under a new regulation effective August 25, 2000, nurse practitioners **with prescriptive authority** are able to receive and dispense

their own samples entirely in their own right and under their own individual responsibility for properly handling and accounting for them.

## **Reminders from DHEC Drug Control Director Wilbur Harling**

### **Inventory**

Section 306(d) of Regulation 61-4 requires a complete inventory of all controlled substances at the time of a change in pharmacist-in-charge.

### **Controlled Substance Quantity Limitations**

S.C. Code Ann. § 44-53-360(e) now permits the dispensing of up to 124 dosage units (doses), or a 31-day supply, whichever is the lesser.

### **Methadone**

It is not necessary for a non-hospital pharmacy to obtain a physician's notice of intent to prescribe methadone to a patient, if the notice can be obtained from a hospital pharmacy which has previously dispensed methadone to the patient. Also, the first prescription for methadone may be filled without the notice of intent, however, a second prescription cannot be filled without the notice on file at the pharmacy.

### **Position on Separate Files**

Pharmacists often encounter situations where practitioners have written multiple prescriptions, including controlled substances, as well as non-controlled substances on the same blank. The question then arises as to which file the original document should be filed. If the prescription blank includes one or more Schedule II controlled substances, with one or more Schedule III, IV, or V substances, and/or one or more non-controlled substances, it should be filed in the Schedule II file. A cross-reference should be filed in the Schedule III-V file, as well as the non-controlled file. If the prescription includes one or more III, IV, or V substances with one or more non-controlled substances, it should be filed in the III-V file, with a cross-reference in the non-controlled file.

### **Information that Can be Changed on a Schedule II Prescription (DEA Policy)**

On a Schedule II prescription, the majority of changes can be made only after the pharmacist contacts the prescribing practitioner. After consulting with the prescribing practitioner, the pharmacist is permitted to change the patient's address, drug strength,

*Continued on page 4*

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drug quantity, and directions for use. The pharmacist is permitted to make information additions provided by the patient or bearer such as the patient's address, and such additions should be verified. The pharmacist may also add the dosage form to the prescription order after verification with the prescribing practitioner.

The pharmacist is never permitted to make changes to the patient's name, controlled substance prescribed (except for generic substitution permitted by state law), or the prescriber's signature. These types of changes challenge the necessity of the original prescription and would require a new prescription from the prescribing practitioner.

If you have any questions regarding any of these items, contact Mr Harling at 803/896-0636.

## Review of Board Policies

### Electronic Signatures

The use of computer-generated electronic signatures and replicated signatures on prescriptions for legend non-controls are approved by the Board. The practitioner is responsible for the integrity of the prescription. The pharmacist must use his professional judgment in accepting prescriptions, and may refuse to fill or check with the practitioner if any doubt exists regarding the prescription's validity. Rubber stamped signatures are not acceptable.

### Prescriber's Death or Retirement

Just a reminder regarding the Board's policy on refilling prescriptions upon the death or retirement of a prescriber. If a prescriber dies or retires and there are still refills remaining on a patient's prescriptions for non-controlled substances, authorized refills for maintenance drugs may continue for 90 days. The patient should be advised to obtain a new practitioner within the 90-day period.

### Generic Substitution Authorization

The Board feels that blanket authorizations by patients to pharmacists for generic substitutions on all prescriptions is not acceptable. The patient must authorize generic substitution for each prescription filled, provided it has been approved by the prescriber for generic substitution.

### You Are Not Alone!

This article is to acquaint pharmacists in South Carolina with SCRIPT (South Carolina Recovery and Intervention Team). SCRIPT is a group of pharmacists, male and female, who volunteer time and money and whose goal is to offer help, support, caring, and advocacy to any pharmacist addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. To most

pharmacists, SCRIPT is an unintentionally, well-kept secret. SCRIPT is a non-funded program that does not advertise. We are grateful for this opportunity to have an article published in this *Newsletter*.

South Carolina Pharmacist's Association (SCPhA) gives SCRIPT valuable assistance in clerical help, mailings, copying, taking telephone calls, and printing information in the Palmetto Pharmacist.

SCRIPT is a program designed to help pharmacists, pharmacy students, and their family members who have a drug and/or alcohol problem. SCRIPT is a confidential, statewide program that advocates professional assistance rather than punishment. The primary purposes are to provide assistance to colleagues in a caring, non-judgmental, non-punitive manner, help them enter into recovery, and to restore them to the community and the profession.

SCRIPT holds quarterly meetings in Columbia for sharing, caring, and supporting. We have an attendance of 15-20 team members, and are working toward holding district meetings on a monthly basis. Presently, monthly meetings are being held in the Greenville area.

For more information, or if you or someone you know needs help, please contact someone from SCRIPT now. All referrals are strictly confidential.

- ◆ **Greenville:** Frank Woodruff 864/246-6927(home), 864/246-7712 (work), or e-mail [DADFARM@aol.com](mailto:DADFARM@aol.com) or Dixon L. 864/244-0975.
- ◆ **Spartanburg:** Glenn I. 864/585-7238.
- ◆ **Charleston:** J.K. 843/795-9613, J.B. 843/572-4375.
- ◆ **North Central:** B.H. 843/634-6946.
- ◆ **Midlands:** D.B. 803/534-4026, J.C. 803/732-0559, C.D. 803/750-1393, and Doug Chavous 803/787-1766.
- ◆ **Aiken-Augusta:** E.E. 706/650-8249.
- ◆ **SCPhA:** 803/254-1065 or 1-800/532-4033 (leave a telephone number, and someone will return your call).

You may help to save someone's life and his/her professional career. It could be your own!

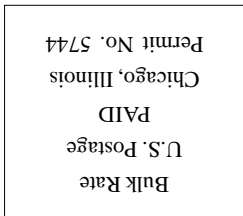
This article was contributed by Doug Chavous, Chairman, SCPhA SCRIPT Committee.

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