

November 2003



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

Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

Kingtree Bldg, 110 Centerview Dr
PO Box 11927, Columbia, SC 29211-1927

New Board Web Site

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy Web site recently got a new look. Additional information and useful forms were added for your convenience. You will find updated Frequently Asked Questions and detailed information regarding technician certification requirements. We hope you take the time to stop by and look. The site address is www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/pharmacy.

Next Board Vacancy

The next Board of Pharmacy member term begins July 1, 2004, and ends June 30, 2010. Any pharmacist interested in running as a candidate must:

- ◆ Reside in the Third Congressional District;
- ◆ Be licensed and actively practicing pharmacy in South Carolina; and
- ◆ Before December 1, 2003, submit to the Board office a biography and petition bearing signatures of at least fifteen (15) pharmacists practicing in the Third District.

After receiving biographies and petitions, the Board administrator will:

- ◆ Prepare and mail ballots by January 15, 2004, to all pharmacists licensed and residing in the Third Congressional District and who certified on their last renewal application that they reside in the Third Congressional District; and
- ◆ Certify as true and valid all ballots postmarked before February 15, 2004, and received by the Board office before February 25, 2004.

Before March 1, 2004, the Board will certify in writing to Governor Mark Sanford 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, will take 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.

Immunization Position Statement

At the September 2003 Board meeting the Board agreed to the following position statement on pharmacists giving immunizations.

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy, alarmed by the many deaths of SC [South Carolina] citizens due to a lack of influenza immunizations and recognizing that pharmacists are easily accessible to all South Carolina citizens, and bearing in mind that pharmacists are authorized by South Carolina law to administer drugs,

1. Encourages South Carolina pharmacists to participate in influenza immunization programs by making available and administering influenza immunizations to the public at permitted pharmacy locations,
2. Reminds pharmacists that such immunization programs shall meet the following requirements:
 - ◆ Administering pharmacists shall have completed a CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] -approved immunization training program,
 - ◆ Administering pharmacists shall be currently certified in CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation],
 - ◆ Administering pharmacists shall have written policies and procedures for aftercare of immunized patients.

This statement does not address every legal issue that might arise in the context of immunization programs including, but not limited to, professional insurance coverage.

SCPhA Introduces RxAlert Program

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy supports the South Carolina Pharmacy Association (SCPhA) in initiating a program similar to Pharm Alert called **RxAlert**. The goal of this statewide initiative is to inform all South Carolina pharmacists of attempted prescription drug diversion. SCPhA will be the catalyst in alerting health professionals and law enforcement of possible criminal activity.

Brian Jackson, president of the 5th District Pharmacy Association, started the Pharm Alert program in Columbia, SC, to educate pharmacists of incidents that were reported by local pharmacists. Recognizing the need for empowering pharmacists with knowledge and awareness of criminal prescription activities, SCPhA is now sponsoring the RxAlert program, which helps educate pharmacies of incidents reported by pharmacists mainly in South Carolina.

RxAlert became active on October 1, 2003. When a situation comes to light, pharmacies and other participants should immediately contact SCPhA of the occurrence via fax, e-mail, or phone. These notifications must be sent to SCPhA by **noon** each business day (Monday through Friday). The reports will be compiled and sent out via fax around 2 PM every weekday. If an urgent situation occurs outside of these times, an additional RxAlert may be sent out.

According to legal counsel at the American Pharmacists Association, the information that will be shared with pharmacists is in the context of alerting for attempted diversion and, therefore, should not conflict with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act guidelines. Communication and participation are essential to the success of the program. SCPhA membership is **not** required to participate. The RxAlert program is provided free of charge as a community and professional service of SCPhA.

Board of Pharmacy Meeting Calendar

The Board of Pharmacy welcomes all interested individuals to attend Board meetings held throughout the year. All meetings will be held at the Board of Pharmacy office in Columbia, SC. Please see the following calendar and plan to attend. For more information, please contact the Board office.

November 12, 2003 Reciprocity
November 19, 2003 Board Meeting
January 21-22, 2004..... Reciprocity and Board Meeting
March 10, 2004 Reciprocity
March 17, 2004 Board Meeting
April 21, 2004 Reciprocity
June 16-17, 2004 Reciprocity and Board Meeting
August 11, 2004 Reciprocity
September 22-23, 2004 .. Reciprocity and Board Meeting

November 10, 2004 Reciprocity
November 17, 2004 Board Meeting

Board of Pharmacy Committees

The Board of Pharmacy continues to strive to stay on top of pharmacy issues affecting the citizens of South Carolina. To do so, several committees meet periodically to address these concerns. These committee meetings are open to the public. If you wish to be notified about a specific committee's meeting schedule, please contact the office and request to be on that committee's notification list.

Compounding Task Force – Davis C. Hook, Jr;
Hugh Mobley

Pharmacy Technicians – Davis C. Hook, Jr; Dock
Henry Rose

Medication Errors – Rufus E. Sadler

Technology – Terry “Tommy” Lewis; David Banks

Nuclear Pharmacy– Dock Henry Rose

Legislative – James R. “Bobby” Bradham

Immunization Task Force – Marvin A. Hyatt, Sr

Recovering Professionals Program – Dr Leo Richardson

Free Medical Clinic Task Force – James R.
“Bobby” Bradham

Detention Center Compliance Task Force – James
R. “Bobby” Bradham

Non-Resident Wholesale Distributors Application
Review – Terry “Tommy” Lewis

Pharmacy Benefits Management – Marvin A. Hyatt, Sr

Prescription Format

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy is aware that many pharmacists have issues with receiving inappropriately formatted prescriptions. Currently, any prescription written (digital or otherwise) must comply with requirements listed in Section 40-43-86(E) of the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act, but how do you educate prescribers to conform with the Practice Act's requirements? Pharmacists should refer prescribers to the following statute, §40-43-86:

(E) *A prescription drug order shall contain at a minimum, the:*

- (1) full name and address of the patient;
- (2) name, address, telephone number, and degree classification of the prescriber; license number, and Drug Enforcement Agency registration number of the prescribing practitioner where required by law;
- (3) date of issuance;
- (4) name, strength, dosage form, and quantity of drug prescribed;
- (5) directions for use;

Continued from page 4

(6) number of refills authorized. No prescription marked "PRN" or any other nonspecified number of refills may be refilled more than two years beyond the date it was originally written. Nothing in this subsection abridges the right of a pharmacist to refuse to fill or refill a prescription; and

(7) a written order signed by the prescriber, which shall bear the name of the patient; name, strength, and quantity of the drug or device prescribed; directions for use; date of issue; and, either rubber stamped, typed, printed by hand, or typeset, the name, address, telephone number, and degree classification of the prescriber; and, if a controlled substance is prescribed, the prescriber's federal registration number;

(8) only one drug and set of instructions for each blank, if preprinted;

(9) a chart order is exempt from the requirements of this subsection.

In addition, the Board has established a Policy & Procedure dealing with electronic signatures. Policy & Procedure #066 states:

The practitioner is responsible for the integrity of the prescription. The pharmacist must use his professional judgment in accepting and may refuse or check the practitioner if any doubt exists regarding the prescription's validity.

Prescriptions received by a pharmacist from a patient must have (a) an original signature of a practitioner or (b) have a digital signature and be printed on paper that supplies security features preventing duplication or modification.

Electronic signatures are only permissible on prescriptions sent directly from a practitioner to a pharmacy via electronic transfer and cannot be modified in any way.

Rubber stamped signatures are not acceptable.

Additional requirements are listed in sections 40-43-86(F) and 40-43-86(H). The full text of the Practice Act can be found at: www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Pharmacy. If you have problems with prescription formats that you cannot resolve at your level, please contact the Board office.

Fees for Duplicate Licenses and Wall Certificates

Anyone who has a lost, stolen, or damaged Board of Pharmacy license, permit, or registration (pharmacists, technicians, interns, or pharmacy permit) is required to submit a request in writing for a duplicate license, registration, or permit. This request must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$5 for replacement of the lost, stolen, or damaged license, registration or permit.

Additionally, pharmacists who need a duplicate of their wall certificate signed by all Board members (sheepskin with calligraphy) must submit a request in writing accompanied by a check or money order for \$50 for replacement of the certificate.

Any duplication requests must notate the individual's license, registration, or permit number.

Pharmacy Technicians to Complete Continuing Education

Beginning with the 2004-2005 renewals, the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act requires **all pharmacy technicians** 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 should 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.

State Certification Requirements

According to the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act, §40-43-82(B)(1)(a)(D), through July 1, 2004, to become state certified as a pharmacy technician an individual must meet the following requirements:

- ◆ Pass the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) examination, and
- ◆ Document 1,500 hours of practical work experience as a pharmacy technician under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, **or**
- ◆ Complete a Board-approved curriculum for formal academic training as a pharmacy technician, and
- ◆ Have a high school diploma or the equivalent.

Beginning on July 1, 2004, the requirements change and individuals wishing to become state certified must do the following:

- 1) Pass the PTCB examination, and
- 2) Document 1,000 hours of practical work experience as a pharmacy technician under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, **and**
- 3) Complete a Board-approved curriculum for formal academic training as a pharmacy technician, and

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

4) Have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Don't be left behind; becoming state certified can benefit you professionally and personally. Contact the Board for more information.

Accredited Pharmacy Technician Programs

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy has been made aware of advertisements circulating throughout the state offering students the opportunity to obtain formal academic training for pharmacy technicians via correspondence courses or via Internet colleges. According to the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act § 40-43-82(D), only those programs that meet specific academic criteria and that are Board approved are accepted.

The Board uses the criteria set forth by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists® (ASHP) as the process by which programs in South Carolina may be approved. Any program that has ASHP accreditation will be accepted by the Board as fulfilling the formal academic training requirement established in §40-43-82 of the Pharmacy Practice Act. Other programs will be required to demonstrate that they meet the same criteria before they can be accepted under the statute. If a program does not advertise ASHP accreditation, students should check with the Board to see if it is approved before enrolling.

Currently, there are three colleges in South Carolina that have ASHP accreditation.

- ◆ Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC 803/738-8324
- ◆ Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC 864/250-8037

- ◆ Trident Technical College, Charleston, SC 843/574-6481

Other state technical colleges do have programs that work under the accreditation of these ASHP-accredited schools. These schools that work in conjunction with other schools' accreditation are:

- ◆ Aiken Technical College
- ◆ Denmark Technical College
- ◆ Central Carolina Technical College
- ◆ Florence-Darlington Technical College
- ◆ Horry-Georgetown Technical College
- ◆ Technical College of the Lowcountry
- ◆ Spartanburg Technical College

Contact the South Carolina state technical college in your area to see if it has this type of affiliation. If you have questions about this issue or would like to notify the Board of an unapproved program, contact the Board of Pharmacy office for more information.

Page 6 – November 2003

The *South Carolina Board of Pharmacy News* is published by the South Carolina 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.

Lee Ann F. Bundrick, RPh, Administrator - State News Editor
 Carmen A. Catizone, MS, RPh, DPh - National News Editor
 & Executive Editor
 Reneeta C. "Rene" Renganathan - Editorial Manager

Presorted Standard
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Chicago, Illinois
 Permit No. 5744

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation, Inc
 700 Busse Highway
 Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
 SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
 LICENSING & REGULATION – BOARD OF PHARMACY