

December 2004

New Office Staff

Gwen Colgrove joined the board of pharmacy as an Administrative Specialist on September 15, 2004. Gwen and her husband, Gary, have recently moved to Casper from Omaha, Nebraska. Gwen most recently managed an outlet mall in Gretna, Nebraska, a suburb of Omaha. Their eldest son is a pharmacist in the Omaha area. Gwen will be working at the reception area and will be the primary person who answers incoming phone calls.

September Board Meeting

Highlights from the September board meeting include:

- Sterile Compounding. USP 797 guidelines were discussed. The board will consider amending Chapter 13 of the board rules in 2005. Chapter 13 deals with compounding, and the board will seek input from pharmacists in the state regarding changes to the sterile compounding regulations. At the September board meeting there were six pharmacists present who perform sterile compounding. A work group will be formed involving these pharmacists and the board staff to look at USP-797 guidelines and make recommendations to the board for consideration in 2005. Any pharmacist interested in participating in this process should contact Jim Carder at the board's office. This group will try and meet in January.
- Rule-Making 2005. The board will propose changes in board rules next summer. Items being considered include: Chapter 13, Section 10 (Sterile compounding); Chapter 2, Section 14 (termination of patient/physician relationship affecting refills); new rules governing nursing home consultant pharmacists; packaging of medication for nursing home patients; rules addressing pharmacist right to refuse to dispense a prescription

based on their personal beliefs; Chapter 8 (manufacturer, distributor, & wholesaler prescription drug regulations); and if proposed changes in the Wyoming Pharmacy Act are approved during the upcoming session of the Legislature there may be a need to modify some existing rules governing both resident and non-resident pharmacies.

- Proposed changes in the Wyoming Pharmacy Act. The board reviewed proposed changes in the Wyoming Pharmacy Act, which would affect both resident and non-resident pharmacies. Sponsors of this legislation will be Representative Doug Osborne and Senator John Barrasso, MD.
- Board discussed requiring criminal background histories for applicants for registration as a pharmacy intern or as a pharmacy technician-in-training. This will be further discussed at the February board meeting.
- **The date for the next board meeting has been set for February 16-17 in Cheyenne.**

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Denise Lane, Records Analyst

We went to 15 different communities this summer to do our community presentations to the pharmacists and practitioners. We have our presentation available on CD for any interested professionals. I have sent 7 CD's out to a variety of pharmacists and practitioners to date. The following information is the breakdown of letters that were sent and participants that showed up for the presentations:

Communities	Letters Mailed	Attendees
Casper, July 14th & 5th	368	22
Douglas, July 19th & 20th	32	10
Wheatland, July 20th & 21st	26	6
Cheyenne, July 21st & 22nd	419	52
Laramie, July 26th & 27th	157	25
Rawlins, July 27th & 28th	30	9
Rock Springs, July 28th & 29th	133	29
Evanston, July 29th & 30th	65	24

Worland, Aug 9th & 10th	31	10
Lovell-Powell, Aug 10th & 11th	60	10
Cody, Aug 11th & 12th	102	16
Riverton-Lander, Aug 16th & 17th	80	21
Jackson, Aug 17th & 18th	104	14
Gillette, Aug 23rd & 24th	102	29
Sheridan, Aug 24th & 25th	141	30
Total Letters Mailed = 1,850 Total Number of Attendees =307		

Our office has received numerous calls from pharmacies with questions and concerns about reporting the data and software problems. We encourage you to contact Atlantic Associates first (800-539-3370) and then our office. The biggest problem we are seeing is missing data, i.e. birth dates, zip codes and telephone numbers. If there are any fields that you send that are blank, Atlantic Associates will send the entire file back to you along with an error report. You will have to fill in the missing data and then resubmit the entire file. When you send the data via modem, you are sending the data DIRECTLY to Atlantic Associate's modem, so there are no HIPAA or confidentiality issues. They do accept paper files, but CD or modem is definitely easier for the pharmacies.

Just one more reminder, the fax number for the monitoring program is different than the board's fax number. Please remember to use our specific patient profile request forms and the correct fax number: **(307) 473-1055** when requesting patient specific profiles. If you would like a personalized profile for your pharmacy and didn't receive one, please call the office or fax a request. As always, call if you have any questions. Contact information: Denise Lane, Records Analyst, Email: dlane@state.wy.us, Phone: (307) 234-0294, Fax: (307) 473-1055.

Identifying your patient is worth your time (Michelle Vigil, PharmD Candidate)

The rules and regulations of the Wyoming Pharmacy Act, Chapter 2, Section 17 indicate that the pharmacist or employee under supervision must verify the identity of the person

receiving any drug at the time it is dispensed to that person. This identification as stated in the rule can take place by visual recognition. However, if identity cannot be established by visual recognition, a driver's license or similar identification form is considered acceptable documentation.

This one step task can help prevent drug diversion, falsification of records and protect the pharmacy from being scammed. Identifying the pass-through customers will only protect your pharmacy, and should not deter business. *Take the time to recognize your patients!*

Precautions with Long-Acting Opiates! (Hank York, RPh, Compliance Officer)

Recent and future changes on third party plans, Medicaid, and prior authorization programs may increase the use of long acting opiates for pain management. Methadone is one of these long acting opiates that are on the rise in being prescribed for pain management in patients. Methadone warning, precautions, and awareness for potential overdose and abuse should be addressed. All patients, pharmacists, and physicians should be informed of possible problems if not monitored carefully.

METHADONE POINTS OF CONCERN:

1. Major hazards of methadone, as other opioid analgesics, are respiratory depression and, to a lesser degree, circulatory depression. Respiratory arrest, shock, and cardiac arrest have occurred.
2. The duration of action of methadone effect is much longer (36-48 hours), which results in delay of the onset, a lowering of the peak, and an increase in the duration of the analgesic effect. There have been reports of patient deaths occurring with the first fill of a prescription for methadone.

3. Methadone does not produce the euphoric rush associated with other opioids; thus these patients often consume dangerously large quantities of methadone in a vain attempt to attain the desired effect.
4. It is recommended that educational based programs be directed to patients, physicians, and pharmacists regarding the proper use and prescribing of methadone.

License Renewals

All pharmacist and pharmacy technician license renewal applications were mailed to the address of record on file at the board's office on November 1st. If you did not receive your renewal, contact the Board's office. ***To avoid a late fee, your completed renewal must be postmarked no later than Friday, December 31, 2004.***

Golden Certificate -- 50 Years of Service

Congratulations to the following pharmacists who have completed 50 years of service in 2004 as a licensed pharmacist in Wyoming. The Board of Pharmacy recognizes these pharmacists and is grateful for their years of service to the pharmacy profession.

William Fraser (June 20, 1954, date of original licensure); Claude Gibler (June 25, 1954, date of original licensure); Richard Quarve (July 14, 1954, date of original licensure); and Edwin Small (June 15, 1954, date of original licensure).

Special Notice about This Newsletter

The *Wyoming Board of Pharmacy News* had been designated as the official method of notification to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians licensed by the Wyoming Board of Pharmacy. Please read these newsletters and keep them for future reference. These newsletters will be used in hearings as proof of notification. Newsletters are available for review on the Board's web page (<http://pharmacyboard.state.wy.us>).