

Pharmacist license renewals

Renewal notices will be mailed on November 1st, but will be different this year. You will receive a letter explaining the renewal process as well as a user id and a unique password, which will allow you to access your renewal application via the board's website. The letter will explain the process for on-line renewal as well as other options for license renewal. You will be able to renew and print your renewal certificate from home or work via the board's website. Payment for on-line renewal must be made by either Visa or Mastercard.

Reminders from the Inspectors by Richard Burton, RPh and Hank York, RPh

- Is your computer back-up system working? When was the last time you checked to see if it was operating properly? If your system is not backing up properly, it can cause serious problems for your pharmacy, processing refills and third party billing to mention a couple. We have had one pharmacy this year that has reported a back-up failure. They lost months of 3rd party data and patient profiles and had to resort by pulling the hard copy prescription to record refill information. Difficulty was also experienced with the technical support from the software vendor.
- Perpetual Inventory: All pharmacies (retail and institutional) are now required to maintain a perpetual inventory of all Schedule II drugs. This inventory shall be reconciled no less than once a quarter. Whenever the actual inventory differs from the recorded inventory by more than five (5%) for any drug product, whether a gain or loss, the discrepancy shall be reported on DEA form 106 to the Board within 10 calendar days. This inventory should have been in place 01-01-07.
- Out-of-date drugs: It is the responsibility of the pharmacist-in-charge to assure that all expired drugs are removed from the active stock and placed in an area designated for

return. If any of the expired drugs are controlled substances they should be kept in a secured location to prevent any temptation of pilferage or diversion. Any controlled substance, even though expired, still has to be carried on the pharmacy inventory until at which time it is returned to the reverse distributor.

- Board rules require all pharmacist and interns to report any change of address or place of employment to the Board within fifteen (15) days of the change. Pharmacy technicians are required to report any change of employment or address within thirty (30) days of the change.
- As a Reminder: Hard copy prescriptions for non-controlled drugs presented to a patient which are generated from electronic media utilizing electronic signature shall be applied to paper that utilizes security features.
- Random Drug Audits: A discrepancy over 5% (+ or -) in any routine random CS drug audit will automatically trigger a return of the pharmacy inspectors in 90 to 120 days to conduct a much broader and more drug specific accountability audit. Should the accountability of any CS drug audited at that time be greater than 5% (+ or -), disciplinary action including an administrative penalty could be levied against the PIC (pharmacist-in-charge) and the pharmacy owner.
- Patient ID/Patient Address for controlled substance prescriptions. WY Pharmacy Act, Rules & Regulations, Chap 2, Sec. 19(a)vi) of the Board Rules states “Prescriptions for controlled substances shall include the DEA number and address of prescribing practitioner and address of the Patient”. Code of Federal Regulation, CFR 21 Section 1306.05(a) states “Shall bear the full name and address of the patient”. These rules can be reviewed on BOP Web site at <http://pharmacyboard.state.wy.us>. Prescription Drug

Monitoring Program also requires the patient's address for controlled substance prescriptions. WY Controlled Substance Act, Rules & Regulations, Chap. 8 Sec 2(a)(xiv) of the Board's Rules states "Patient street address and Zip code". Identification of a Patient by Board Rule is as follows: WY Pharmacy Act, Rules & Regulations Chap.2, Sec 17(a)(b)(c) which states "A Pharmacist or employee under supervision must verify the identity of the person presenting a CS prescription to the Pharmacy for dispensing. If identity is not established by visual recognition, a driver's license or similar photo identification form is considered acceptable documentation. The following information must be recorded on the reverse of the prescription if an ID is utilized: Name, type of identification, and identification number. The name of the person receiving the dispensed drug is to be recorded on the prescription document, patient profile or signature log if an agent and not the patient receives the drug".

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Update, By Denise Embury, Records Analyst

The board is receiving a lot of invalid birth dates in the data received from Atlantic Associates. Birth dates are so important as sometimes that is the only common field that can link patients who are using more than one name or address. Please make sure the pharmacy staff is using the birth date of the patient using a valid ID and that it is collected with each controlled substance prescription, even if they are not using insurance, as it is vital to the prescription drug monitoring program's data integrity.

Online Pharmacies, By Michael Wenke, PharmD Candidate

It has come to the attention of the Board that both pharmacies and physicians' offices in the state are receiving unsolicited faxes regarding internet pharmacies. Many places have been bombarded with numerous faxes from different internet addresses, however; these faxes remain

in the same format and content. In addition, the different addresses of these faxes all lead to the same web site leaving us to believe that they are from one company. The addresses that the Board has seen are myfirstpharma.com, mypharmanow.com, mypharmacentral.com, mypharmausa.com, mypharmausa.biz, mypharmacyworld.com, and mypharma1.net. The Board warns that with the numerous addresses and frequency that the addresses change, this list is probably not complete.

These sites are illegal because a pharmacy must be licensed in the State of Wyoming to sell prescriptions or offer any pharmacy services here in the state, independent of the pharmacies resident or non-resident status. W.S. § 33, Chapter 24, Section 113(a) and 152(a). In addition, these sites violate WY Pharmacy Act, Rules & Regulations Chap. 2, Sec. 14(b) which states “It shall be unprofessional conduct for a resident or non-resident pharmacy or a pharmacist to dispense, sell or offer to sell prescription drugs to persons located within the state or any other state on the basis of a prescription generated solely through an internet questionnaire physician consultation.”

The Board has looked into this situation but no contact information could be found on the site or from an IP address search. The IP address search did show that the internet site is in Hong Kong. A tip has been submitted to the DEA about these particular sites due to the fact that some scheduled medications are available from them and the DEA does have a task force aimed specifically at tracking down illegal Internet pharmacies.

Pharmacists should be aware of the situation involving Internet pharmacies and can serve as a conduit of information to the public warning them of the dangers of using Internet pharmacies. Many Internet pharmacy sites are not legitimate and theft of credit card information is a prominent issue, especially with foreign sites. The medical dangers include, but are not

limited to counterfeit medications and clinical abuse or misuse. Also there is no way for the pharmacist to check for drug-drug contraindications, drug-disease contraindications, and drug-allergy interactions. Educating the public is a good way to prevent the use of these sites and to increase patient safety.

A New Idea for Continuing Education Credits, Pharmacist Self-Assessment Mechanism

(PSAM) By Aaron Newland, PharmD Candidate

Pharmacist Self-Assessment Mechanism (PSAM) is an online examination aimed at testing the knowledge base of pharmacists. The results may be used to determine areas in need of improvement and to confirm areas of strong competence. A pharmacist can use the results of the score to help with topic selection for choosing continuing education credits (CE). Wyoming currently offers 4 hours of CE for completing the PSAM. Five other states including California, Minnesota, Idaho, Nevada, and Tennessee are also accepting CE upon completion of the PSAM. The examination consists of 100 multiple-choice questions in three sections and takes one to three hours per section. The cost for the examination is \$75 and can be accessed at NABP's website (www.nabp.net).

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>).