

October Board Meeting

The Board held a meeting in Casper on October 2nd. Highlights are as follows:

- A public hearing was held to hear comments, review written comments, and vote on the proposed changes in the Board's Rules. The Board issued an Order adopting Rules (02-3). The full text of the Order may be found on the Board's web page (<http://pharmacyboard.state.wy.us>). The Governor has until November 29 to approve the rules and file with the Secretary of State. The proposed rules regarding compounding were continued till the January Board meeting. Those rules continued include Chapter 13, Chapter 2, Sections 7 (a) (iii & xii) & 25, and Chapter 12, section 8(h).
- Proposed changes in the Wyoming Pharmacy Act and Wyoming Controlled Substance Act. Senator Devin and Representative Osborne will sponsor legislation on behalf of the Board. Proposed changes include:
 - Authorization to allow the Board to obtain a criminal history record via fingerprints from all applicants for licensure as a pharmacist or technician.
 - Authorization to allow the Board to issue a letter of admonition or assess a fine to an owner of a pharmacy (resident or non-resident), manufacturer, wholesaler or distributor for violations.
 - Modify the expiration date of a pharmacist license for failure to renew.
 - Authorize the Board to issue a temporary pharmacist license.
 - Authorize the Board to implement a controlled substance prescription monitoring program.

Please contact the Board's office if you have any questions regarding this legislation NAPLEX/MPJE fees—Effective 1/1/03 the fee for NAPLEX and MPJE will increase to \$430.00 and \$170.00 respectively.

- HIPAA—the final rules were published in the Federal Register (August 13, 2002). The privacy regulations will go into effect April 2003. If you still have questions, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores has put together a compliance manual. Information regarding this manual should be available via the Wyoming Pharmacy Association or emailing NACDS (HIPAA@nacds.org)
- January Meeting—the next meeting will be in Cheyenne on January 29th and if necessary January 30th. The meeting will be held at the Herschler Building (room # 1299) located at 122 W. 25th. The public hearing on rules continued from the October meeting will begin at 9am on January 29th.

License Renewals

All pharmacist and pharmacy technician license renewal applications were mailed on November 1st. If you did not receive your renewal, contact the Board's office. To avoid a late fee, your renewal must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, December 31, 2002.

Inspector's Position

Mike Stadick resigned his position as a Board inspector on November 14th to pursue full time retirement! We wish him well! We plan to advertise this position in January, and hopefully have someone selected by March 1st. This will be a part time position, which will be based in Casper. If you are interested in the position contact our office and we will make sure you receive a copy of the vacancy announcement when available, or if you have any questions regarding this position contact Jim Carder or Don Deyo.

Methamphetamine Labs in Wyoming (by Mike Stadick)

It's true. Methamphetamine Labs are alive and well in Wyoming. Guess What? We make sure of it. That's right. Before the bad guys can cook the "Meth", they need pseudoephedrine. That's the easiest part of the recipe. The cooks simply scour the pharmacies until they have enough to cook a batch. They will either buy or steal it. Either way, we make it easy for them to thrive in Wyoming. Last year 29 clandestine labs were taken down. Every county in Wyoming was associated with at least one lab. Sweetwater County had 7 labs. To date, DCI reports that 46 methamphetamine labs have been seized in Wyoming since January, 2002. While the bad guys make a lot of money, thanks to our generosity, they do so at great risk to themselves, their families, neighbors, & the environment. This stuff is very dangerous to make. Many labs are discovered as a result of explosions or fires that are caused when the various components are combined. In addition, besides leaving a toxic residue all over the "kitchen" area, about 6 pounds of hazardous solid waste per pound of Crank will get dumped where ever after a batch is "cooked". So what can Wyoming pharmacists do to combat this problem? Well, for one thing, if all the pharmacies in Wyoming were to voluntarily keep pseudoephedrine behind the counter, the "Meth Chefs" would have to ask for it. Then the question becomes, how much nasal decongestant will you sell before the police are alerted?

Subutex and Suboxone approved to treat opiate dependence (by Don Deyo)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the approval of Subutex (buprenorphine hydrochloride) and Suboxone tablets (buprenorphine hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride) for the treatment of opiate dependence. Subutex and Suboxone treat opiate addiction by preventing symptoms of withdrawal from heroin and other opiates. Both of the above drugs are available in 2 mg. and 8 mg. sublingual tablets and are controlled as Schedule III narcotics.

Unlike methadone, Subutex and Suboxone may be prescribed in an office setting and prescriptions can be filled at a retail pharmacy. Physicians must be specially trained to prescribe Subutex and Suboxone and this is indicated by a special prefix assigned by DEA., which will be the letter “X”. If a physician’s DEA registration is, for example AS3256901, the number assigned by DEA for prescribing Subutex and Suboxone would be XS3256901. As of the date this article was written (November 1st), there are two physicians in Wyoming who will be approved to prescribe Subutex and Suboxone tablets. Subutex and Suboxone tablets are manufactured by Reckitt Benckiser Pharmaceuticals, and should be available from your wholesaler around January 1st. Induction doses of Subutex and Suboxone should be given in the physician’s office. Therefore, you may be asked to deliver such doses to the physician’s office or supply them to the patient, who is to take the medication to the office for administration. This may go on for several days before a longer supply is prescribed.

For more information, contact 1-877-SUBOXONE (1-877-782-6966), or visit the Web site at www.suboxone.com. You may also contact Don Deyo at the Board office.

Questions and Answers (by Mike Stadick)

Question: Can a Wyoming pharmacist fill a prescription ordered by an out of state practitioner?

Answer: Prescriptions written by out of state practitioners are valid only to the extent a practitioner in Wyoming may prescribe that medicine in Wyoming (Chapter 2, § 19 (d) of the Board’s Rules).

Question: Are Naturopathic physicians recognized in Wyoming?

Answer: No

Question: Since Naturopathic physicians in Montana also have DEA Numbers, how can I differentiate between a Medical Doctor and a Naturopathic Doctor?

Answer: Instead of **MD**, Naturopathic Physicians have **ND** after their name.

Question: Where can I get a listing of out of state Naturopathic Physicians?

Answer: Check out www.naturopathic.org , then click on “**Find an ND**”

For example, if you enter Billings for the City and MT for the state, you will get the following names: Margaret R. Beeson ND, Nirala J. Jacobi,ND, and Paul Nicolai, ND

Question: What if our pharmacy previously filled prescriptions ordered by a Naturopathic Physician?

Answer: The Board believes that no pharmacist in the field would knowingly break this aspect of pharmacy law. However, from the knowledge gained in this newsletter, it will be difficult for a pharmacist to claim ignorance relative to filling prescriptions for out of state Naturopathic Physicians in the future.

Alcohol or Drug Problem? Confidential Assistance is Available

Call WPAP at (307) 472-1222

If you are concerned about yourself or a colleague, please call Wyoming Professional Assistance Program to discuss your concerns anonymously. We assist impaired healthcare professionals to get the help they need without necessarily jeopardizing their licenses.

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>).