

DECEMBER 1999 BVC NEWSLETTER

Ultram has potential for Drug Dependency

Once again, a medication initially released as non-addicting has proven to have significant potential for abuse and dependency. “Ultram” has been marketed for oral treatment of moderate to moderately severe pain – a niche in which a non-addicting option for pharmacotherapy is desperately needed.

“Ultram” (tramadol) binds to the u-opioid receptor in addition to inhibiting norepinephrine and serotonin uptake. The potential for development of abuse and dependency, therefore, is not particularly surprising. Recently, the manufacturer, Ortho-McNeil, issued a medical release revealing: “115 spontaneous domestic reports of adverse events described as drug abuse, dependence, withdrawal or intentional overdose have been received. Patients with a past or present history of addiction or dependence on opioids account for the majority of these reports. Ultram should not be used in such patients.”

Numerous Professional Health Programs (Peer Assistance Programs) have experience that shows Ultram to be addictive. Ultram is not advised for relief of chronic or low-grade pain in these Health Professionals’ Programs and the drug has been included in some Programs’ toxicology panels. There is recognition that there is need for appropriate pain control, but evidently Ultram is not one of those medications.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: *Wyoming Professional Assistance Program*

Beverly Stalder, LAT, Professional Director, 307-472-1222

Second Inspector

The Board has selected Mike Stadick from Sheridan as our second inspector. Mike will be working part time for the Board and will begin in January. Mike comes to the Board with 31

years of hospital experience that ranges from rural Montana and Wyoming to big city Washington, D.C. and Tucson, AZ. Mike, in his earlier years, had worked for Bi-Rite Drug in Sheridan with B.T. McManus. Mike has been back in Wyoming since 1985 and has been working for the V.A. hospital in Sheridan, and will retire from the V.A. program in December. Though raised in North Dakota, and an N.D.S.U. graduate, the Stadicks consider Wyoming as home.

Mike and his wife, Pauline, have been married for 37 years and they have three boys. Mike enjoys fishing, archery, and upland bird hunting. In fact, he freely admits to an extreme fondness for good bird dogs, regardless of breed. Mike says that he will buy coffee for any pharmacist he meets, who is still putting in a full day, with a Wyoming registration number lower than his.

Board's E-mail Address

The Board's e-mail address is wypharma@wercs.com and it actually works! The Board's web page has been constructed and will be on line by late October. The address will be listed in the next newsletter as it was not available at the time this was written.

Highlights from the September Board Meeting

The last Board meeting was held in Casper on September 29 and 30. Highlights include the following:

- Collaborative practice rule-making continued until the January Board meeting
- Board issued a rule-making order on September 30, which will not be effective until signed by the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State's office. The order establishes late fees, raised license fees for non-resident pharmacies and manufacturers/distributors, establishes a procedure for reinstatement of a revoked/suspended pharmacist license, establishes a procedure for nursing homes and others to maintain an emergency supply of

prescription drugs, and designated ephedrine containing products as prescription only. The deadline for the Governor to sign and file with the Secretary of State is November 29.

- Discussed possible rule-making changes which include: physical requirements for new/remodeled pharmacies, remove requirements for pharmacies to petition board for increase in pharmacist/technician ratio, remove requirements for using Orange Book to select products for generic substitution, and hospital pharmacy regulations. Draft regulations will be presented at the January Board meeting.
- Selected Roy E. Clark, R.Ph, as the Board's representative for the Wyoming Professional Assistance Program, Board of Directors. His term will expire June 2000.
- Selected Mike Stadick, R.Ph, as a part time inspector. He will begin employment in January.

If you have questions regarding this meeting, please contact our office. Minutes of Board meetings will be posted on our web page.

January Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on January 26 and 27 in Cheyenne. The agenda will be posted on the web page by January 10.

Board of Director Position, Wyoming Professional Assistance Program

The Board selected Roy E. Clark, R.Ph., from Laramie as the Board's representative for the Wyoming Professional Assistance Program's, Board of Directors. Roy's term will expire in June 2000. There are currently six positions on the Board of Directors of WPAP. We feel Roy will do an exceptional job in representing the Board.

Transferring prescriptions between pharmacies – Don Deyo

During my inspections, there have been questions regarding transferring prescriptions. Prescriptions may be transferred provided that all requirements of Chapter 2, Section 10 of the Wyoming Pharmacy Act Rules and Regulations are followed. Prescriptions for non-scheduled drugs may be transferred as long as there are refills remaining. Prescriptions for scheduled drugs may be transferred *one time only*, the transfer being from the pharmacy where the prescription was originally filled. The information necessary for prescription transfer may be communicated directly by telephone contact between two pharmacists or electronically. If you have questions about transferring prescriptions, please contact the Board's office.

Let's Talk Trash! (Cory Moss, Pharmacy Intern, UW School of Pharmacy)

Fox News recently aired a program (Aug. 24,1999), and contacted NABP, concerning the disposal of medications, prescription bottles/vials, prescription labels and related patient information. Unauthorized individuals had access to all sorts of confidential patient information, just by going through trash from these pharmacies. This is just a reminder to be aware that prescriptions aren't the only things that go out of your pharmacy. Even something as simple as the trash could potentially break patient confidentiality.

SCAM OF THE MONTH: The Man & Woman scam

Posing as a doctor a man calls in many prescriptions for a controlled substance in the same general area. Later, he will call back as a police officer to see if it is suspicious to the pharmacist. If the pharmacist says yes, the man will not go to that pharmacy. They will usually have the woman pick up only 1-2 prescriptions in the area.

*Verify controlled substance prescriptions often.

*Any phone calls from police/authority- definitely verify those prescriptions.

*Always get an I.D. on controlled substances.

Adapted from Drug Diversion Scenarios 4th ed., Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force.

Newly Licensed Pharmacists

The following pharmacists have been licensed since publication of the June newsletter: Chad A. Panning, Jennifer A. Laverly, Sarah E. Arroyo, Mary J. Kendall, Patrica A. Myers, Nichole M. Keller, Steven E. Muller, John C. Foss, Robin L. Carter, & Michelle M. Dieter.

Advanced Practitioners of Nursing

The following advanced practitioners of nursing have met the Wyoming State Board of Nursing's requirements for prescriptive authority: Cynthia Voegeli (Lusk), Pamela Payne (Laramie), Rebecca Jo Kane (Billings, MT), Jane Pelster Rosen (Powell), Susan J. Foster (Worland), Judy Ann Nicksioch (Rock Springs), and Lori Ann Enever (Cheyenne).

Newly Licensed Pharmacy Technicians

The Board licensed the following individuals as Wyoming pharmacy technicians after the October 1st pharmacy technician exam:

Earl Adkins, Allie D. Brungardt, Robert B. Carroll, Debra A. Cunningham, Cecelia J. Daly, Mary A. Everett, Lisa C. Harris, Lori K. Hinker, Candy M. Johnson, Diana M. Lake, Penny McFadden, Dawn L. Miller, Ericka S. Miller, Robyn L. Nixon, Suzann P. Norvelle, Jon D. Palmer, Bethany K. Tarno, Christina J. Tiensvold, Donna L. Turechek, & Peggy J. White.

Congratulations!

Special Notice about This Newsletter

The *Wyoming Board of Pharmacy News* has been designated as the official method of notification to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians licensed by the Wyoming State Board of Pharmacy. Please read these newsletters and keep them for future reference. These newsletters will be used in hearings as proof of notification.