

WYOMING STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

STATE NEWSLETTER

September 2000

Proposed Rules

A public hearing is scheduled for 9am, Thursday, October 26 in Casper to receive oral comments regarding the proposed rules being considered by the Board. In August, the Board mailed a copy of the rule-making notice to all pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, hospitals & pharmacies licensed/registered by the Board as well as copies to all interested parties who have contacted the Board's office. Individuals may submit written comments or present testimony at the hearing regarding the proposed rules. Written comments will be accepted until 5pm, Wednesday, October 25. The Board will take into consideration those written comments submitted as well as testimony at the public hearing. The following *briefly* summarizes those rules changes being considered by the Board:

- Chapter 1, Section 7—limits out-of-state prescriptions
- Chapter 4, Section 4—changes/additions to definitions used in Chapter 2
- Chapter 2, Section 5—clarifies language for pharmacist licensure by examination
- Chapter 2, Section 6—requires active pharmacy practice for pharmacist seeking licensure in Wyoming by license transfer
- Chapter 2, Section 7—clarification in requirements to open, remodel, or operate a pharmacy
- Chapter 2, Section 8—clarifies inventory requirements with change in PIC
- Chapter 2, Section 9—clarifies the amount of time a pharmacist must work in a store to be the PIC
- Chapter 2, Section 10—clarifies the requirements for electronic transfer of prescriptions

- Chapter 2, Section 11—requirements for labeling of unit dose packaging
- Chapter 2, Section 13—requirements for documentation of refill authorizations
- Chapter 2, Section 15—establishes requirements for return or exchange of prescription drugs
- Chapter 2, Section 19—addresses requirements for documentation of oral prescription orders
- Chapter 2, Section 29—establishes fees for institutional pharmacy license and late fee
- Chapter 4, Code of Ethics—additions to the code of ethics
- Chapter 7, Section 3—clarification
- Chapter 10, section 3—clarification of responsibilities of the pharmacist
- Chapter 10, Section 4—clarification of what duties the pharmacy technician or technician-in-training may do during the absence of the pharmacist; addresses pharmacist absence for limited time period (lunch break)
- Chapter 10, Section 5—established a pharmacy technician/pharmacist ratio of 2:1, petition to the Board removed
- Chapter 10, Section 8—clarification of requirements for licensure as a pharmacy technician
- Chapter 12—new chapter, which addresses pharmacy practice in an institutional setting

If you have questions regarding the proposed rules, or did not receive a copy of the rule-making notice, please contact the Board office.

Patient Counseling – From Inspector Don Deyo

Most Wyoming pharmacies now employ technicians, and since the Board of Pharmacy has allowed a two technician to one pharmacist ratio (if a written petition is presented to the Board and accepted), many pharmacies employ several technicians. Since the inception of the Wyoming Pharmacy Technician program, Wyoming pharmacists have learned to depend on technicians, and are using technicians to the fullest extent of their capabilities and legal

limitations. This has provided much more time for the pharmacist to do other things. Some pharmacists have used this extra time to provide patient care, usually in the form of more comprehensive counseling, while other pharmacists have concentrated their efforts on less professional matters, e.g. third party reimbursement.

Most pharmacies have computers and software, which is capable of determining drug interactions, drug allergies, etc. Additionally, many pharmacies now are using scanners used in conjunction with NDC code data entry systems. This combination helps to safeguard against dispensing errors, providing greater assurance to the pharmacist that the technician is able to work with less supervision.

All of this should enlighten the pharmacist to the fact that prescription compounding is no longer the primary function of the pharmacist, and that in many instances, the most productive use of the pharmacist's training and knowledge is in providing the patient with information and education concerning their medications and illness.

I know that many readers of this article are tired of hearing the Board Staff talking about patient counseling and that many of you feel that there is not sufficient time in your schedule to counsel more than you are presently doing. The fact remains that filling prescriptions can be done by technicians and machines, but only you, the pharmacist, with your great knowledge of prescription drugs, can help your patients have better outcomes with their medications.

In conclusion, if you approach your patients from the standpoint of a caregiver, who is interested in the outcome of their treatment, instead of someone who counts, pours and labels their prescription, then it is likely that your career will be more satisfying, and your patients may refrain from mail order pharmacies, internet pharmacies, and automated drug dispensing systems, which are looming large on the horizon.

Board Of Pharmacy Web Page

The Board of pharmacy web page address has changed. The web page can now be reached at the following address: <http://pharmacyboard.state.wy.us>

Confidential Help Is Available To Impaired Pharmacists

If **you** or a **colleague** that you know is in trouble with drugs or alcohol, WPAP is here to offer professional assistance. How do I know if I need Help? If you answer two of the following questions yes, we encourage you to call.

- Have you ever felt the need to cut down on your drinking or drug use?
- Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking or drug use?
- Have you ever felt bad or guilty about your drinking or drug use?
- Have you ever needed an eye opener the first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover?

WPAP is a source of confidential help for healthcare professionals who seek the help they need without necessarily jeopardizing their licenses. In April of 1999, the Wyoming Professional Assistance Program (WPAP) signed a contract with the Wyoming Board of Pharmacy allowing WPAP to accept voluntary and Pharmacy Board referrals to the WPAP program. WPAP is endorsed and supported by the Wyoming Board of Pharmacy. The Board of Pharmacy acknowledges and affirms that they will not receive information from WPAP on the identity of the impaired pharmacist who voluntarily applies to and signs an aftercare and monitoring agreement with WPAP.

Call WPAP (307) 472-1222 for more information. Your call is confidential!

Filling Out of State Prescriptions written with PRN refills.

Many states have pharmacy laws and regulations which specify that prescriptions may be refilled for one year only, at which time a new prescription order is required. If you are filling an out of state written prescription with PRN refills, you must assume that it can be refilled for one year only, unlike Wyoming prescriptions, written with PRN refills, which can legally be refilled for two years. Prescriptions from foreign countries cannot be filled in Wyoming. Advise patients wishing to fill such prescriptions to obtain a new Rx from a U. S. practitioner.

Newly Licensed Pharmacists

The following pharmacists have been licensed since the June newsletter: Charles M Bahr, Todd A. Berger, James F. Brausch, Michel B. Disco, Marisa J. Elliott, Craig A. Frederick, Sheila A. Griffith, Tammy J. Jensen, Conn L. Lewis, Kirsi M. Ludwig, Babette E. Melka, Leah G. Muller, Deborah A. Ramstetter, Crystal L. Reimer, Julie A. Shiek, Edward N. Smedley, Brenda K. Upton, Toni R. VanValkenburg, & Aimee L. Williams. *Congratulations!*

Pharmacy Technician Exam

The next examination will be Friday, October 6 in Casper. Packets were mailed to all pharmacy technicians-in-training in August. This may be the last exam administered by the Board depending on the proposed rules being considered by the Board. If you have any questions regarding this exam please contact the Board's office.

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 Board of Pharmacy. Please read these newsletters and keep them for future reference. These newsletters will be used in hearings as proof of notification.

