

September 2003 Newsletter

Pharmacist License Renewal

Please note that starting with pharmacist license renewals for 2004, any pharmacist whose renewal is not received by December 31st will receive a certified letter indicating that their license to practice pharmacy will expire 10 days from the date of the mailing, which will be on or about December 31st. An expired license may be restored if the renewal application, correct fee, and copies of CE credits are submitted to the board not later than March 31st following expiration of the license. **The best advice is to plan your CE activities in advance and submit your renewal application, fee, and copies of CE well in advance of the December 31st deadline.** The late fee will still apply to any renewal postmarked after December 31st. Please contact the board's office if you have any questions regarding this change in law.

New Reporting Requirements for Pharmacists (Nicole Lindsay, Dept of Health)

Following a bio-terrorist event or other public health emergency, there may only be a short window of opportunity, sometimes only hours or days, to provide treatment, prophylaxis, or to implement other control measures. Traditionally, disease surveillance by public health is done by following reports of confirmed cases of disease. However, this type of surveillance may not be timely enough to allow for an effective response following such an event. By expanding our surveillance methods it is hoped that any unusual biologic event in our population could be detected early enough to employ a successful intervention.

A newly adopted state statute now requires that Wyoming pharmacists report the occurrence of unusual trends that may be related to a public health emergency including unusual trends in pharmacy visits, unusually high volumes of certain types of prescriptions filled, and

unusual trends in non-prescription medication sales. The Pharmacist Reporting Form should be completed within 24 hours of the identification of an unusual trend. The report should be sent to the Department of Health's secure fax line (307-777-5573). Reports can also be submitted by telephone (307-777-3593). A toll-free phone number is available for rapid reporting in emergency situations: 1-888-996-9104. Packets of the appropriate reporting forms have been sent to all pharmacies in the state. For additional information, or to request reporting forms, please call Nicole Lindsey, Bioterrorism Surveillance Coordinator (307-777-8640).

Recent Inspection Observations (Hank York and Don Deyo)

Inspections of pharmacies have shown many areas that need improvement. Most of these improvements can be done by your technicians when your pharmacy is not busy.

- **Cleanliness and neatness.** Many pharmacies have accumulated piles of magazines and other materials that are stacked in bays or on bottom shelves gathering dust, and using space that could be used more effectively.
- **Compounding area.** This area must be maintained with regard to cleanliness and space available for compounding even if the pharmacy does only occasional compounding. Utensils and ingredients used for compounding must be kept in area used only for this purpose. This includes always having a clean sink with no dirty dishes.
- **Outdated drugs.** Set up a schedule with your technician(s) to check for outdates, to remove and store them, and to return them to a reverse distributor. Outdates found on your shelves at inspection may result in an audit at your pharmacy by the Board.
- **Reference library.** Put your technician(s) in charge of updating all references including Facts and Comparisons, Pharmacy Laws and Regulations, Drug Interactions, Newsletter, FDA Orange Book, etc.

- **Licenses and Permits.** Ensure that all licenses and permits are current and properly displayed and that all pharmacy personnel are licensed by the Board.
- **Name tags and telephone identification.** All technicians and technicians-in-training must wear name tags and identify themselves as techs or techs in training when answering the telephone.

To ensure that all above items are addressed, a record book can be kept and monitored by the pharmacist in charge.

Alcohol or Drug Problem? Confidential Assistance is Available

Call George Vandel at (307) 472-1222

If you are concerned about yourself or a colleague, please call the Wyoming Professional Assistance Program (WPAP) to discuss your concerns anonymously. We assist impaired pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to get the help they need without necessarily jeopardizing their licenses.

June Board Meeting

Highlights from the June board meeting include:

- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The board filed a grant application with the federal government in June seeking 100% funding of the program for the first two years. Notification of awards will be by November (hopefully!). The board approved a rule-making notice regarding proposed rules for the PDMP. The "Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules and Regulations" was mailed on August 22nd to all resident/non-resident pharmacies, practitioners, wholesalers handling controlled substances, and pharmacists

practicing in Wyoming. This notice may be viewed on the board's web page. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, October 9th in Casper. The PDMP should be operational by November 2004. The board will be conducting information sessions throughout the state beginning in the summer of 2004.

- The board began obtaining fingerprints from applicants for licensure as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician in July. The fingerprints are utilized to obtain a criminal background history and are processed by DCI in Cheyenne and the FBI. There is a \$50.00 charge for the background check.
- Medication administration by pharmacists. With the availability of an intranasal flu vaccine, there has been much interest in administration of this vaccine by pharmacists. W.S. § 33-24-130 excludes the "administration of medication" from the provisions of the Wyoming Pharmacy Act. This exclusion precludes the board from regulating the administration of medications. The board's advice regarding this subject is to have a valid prescription, necessary consent forms, records of administration, skill documentation (as applicable), and regarding the intranasal flu vaccine-a freezer which does not go through a freeze/thaw cycle and maintains the vaccine at the proper temperature.
- Wyoming approved colleges/schools of pharmacy. The board approved the "*2002-2003 Annual Directory, Accredited Professional Programs of Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy*" as published by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education. These will be the only schools/colleges of pharmacy, which will be accepted by the board for any applicant seeking pharmacist licensure by examination, score transfer, or license transfer or registration as a pharmacy intern.

- The next board meeting will be October 8-9 in Casper.

Licensed Pharmacists

The following pharmacists have met requirements for licensure in Wyoming: David H. Jefferis, Brandee C. Buller, Carrie A. Gerdeman, Tavis J. Osler, John A. Torbit, Keyhan Koohgvi, Lisa C. Schrade, Lynn K. Nerland, Dennis J. Woods, Chad M. Pivik, Paul D. Kozma, Tina M. Nerland, Daniel J. Davis, Amy E. Germer, Daniel J. Deering, Christopher P. Murry, Donna L. King, Patricia A. Walsh, Kirstin J. Deselms, Amanda L. Clair, Kristen K. Anderson, Amanda Sutphin, and Jamie R. Bobinmyer-Hornecker.

License Pharmacy Technicians

The following individuals have met requirements for licensure in Wyoming as a pharmacy technician: Phyllis J. Miller, Julie A. Haptonstall, Kimberly A. Stokes, Gillian L. Grunkemeyer, Donna M. Nelson, Brandy N. Durk, Tempe J. Arizona, Jody L. Kolstad, Abigail K. Derr, Gina Alvarez, Douglas J. Evert, Laurie A. Parazoo, Barbara J. Cross, Jeanette M. Hanson, Rebecca L. Johnston, Lindsay E. Perkes, Teresa E. Wallace, Stephanie W. Montanez, Cynthia L. Studds, Natalie B. Childs, Patricia L. Church, Joan Y. Helvik, Merissa M. Shakespeare, Heather M. Beesley, Debra D. Walters, Debra L. Bolger, Kayla A. Maxwell, John K. Roedel, Veronica M. Somers, Connie L. Kukal, Audrey E. Woodward, Brian R. Woodward, Lisa M. Engstrom, and Bryan A. Opitz.

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>).