



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

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BULLETIN No. 10-01

To: Pharmacies, Pharmacists, Interns, and Technicians

From: Malcolm J. Broussard, Executive Director

Date: August 15, 2010

Re: New Laws – New Rules – New Website – New Licensure Information System

New Laws

During the 2010 legislative session, several bills were passed that will affect pharmacies and pharmacists, including the following:

- HB 121 (Act 810) amended the state's list of controlled substances to add new drugs placed on the federal list within the past year. In addition, the legislature added the synthetic cannabinoids – currently being abused in products such as Spice and K2 – into Schedule I. This law will become effective on August 15.
- HB 197 (Act 144) amended the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Law to require the participation of veterinarians in the program. Although the law will become effective on August 15, additional rulemaking activities will be required before the new law becomes operational. We will keep you posted on the rulemaking process.
- HB 872 (Act 287) amended the Pharmacy Practice Act to grant the authority to properly credentialed pharmacists (those holding a Medication Administration Registration) to administer influenza immunizations to any person 7 years of age or older without the necessity of a prescription or medical order. This law will become effective on August 15.
- HB 1095 (Act 488) was written to become effective upon the signature of the governor, which occurred on June 22, 2010. The bill amended the PMP Law in several places to accomplish a variety of objectives, including:
 - The frequency for the reporting of prescription transactions to the program database was clarified to require weekly reports. Although pharmacies may report sooner or more often if they wish, every eligible prescription transaction shall be reported no later than 7 days after the dispensing date.
 - The program was granted specific permission to share database information with out-of-state law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, as well as out-of-state licensing agencies.
 - In addition to making queries of the database for their patients, a prescriber will also be permitted to make queries for all prescription information attributed to that prescriber. Prescribers are encouraged to check the accuracy of all such prescriptions attributed to them and then to contact the pharmacy in the event of an error in the selection of the prescriber.
 - In addition to reporting suspected violations of controlled substance laws to local law enforcement agencies and state licensing agencies, prescribers and dispensers were granted specific permission to report such suspected violations to out-of-state law enforcement agencies.

New Rules

You should have already received the Board's *July 2010 Newsletter*, wherein we reported on four new rules adopted by the Board earlier this year. All of these rules were published on April 20, 2010 in the *Louisiana Register*, as well as the Board's website, and they became effective on that day. With respect to one of the rules – Drugs of Concern – the Board delayed the enforcement date until September 1, 2010 to provide the pharmacies and other dispensers additional time to adjust their recordkeeping systems. A brief recap of the four new rules:

- The Board has identified its first two drugs of concern: (1) tramadol, and (2) butalbital, when in combination with at least 325 milligrams of acetaminophen per dosage unit. The significance of this declaration is the requirement that all prescription transactions for all products containing any drugs of concern must be included in the reports to the prescription monitoring program. When your pharmacy is prepared to begin such reports, you may do so without waiting, but every pharmacy shall begin reporting such transactions no later than September 1, 2010.
- For those pharmacies utilizing pharmacy interns, the Board has adopted a rule (§709) that formally identifies the scope of practice for interns, and further, establishes a maximum allowable staffing ratio. With respect to a pharmacy collaborating with a college of pharmacy as a rotation site, one pharmacist may supervise a maximum of three interns on rotation duty. Where the intern is not on a rotation site, but is earning hours of practical experience, one pharmacist may supervise a maximum of one intern. Finally, these ratios are in addition to the ratios applicable to technicians and technician candidates.
- For those pharmacies utilizing digital imaging technology, the Board adopted a rule (§1123) that applies to hard copy prescription forms presented to a pharmacy. Provided the technology is capable of capturing, storing, and reproducing the exact image of the prescription – including the reverse side of the prescription form – the rule permits those hard copy prescription forms to be filed in 'date scanned' sequence instead of the usual numerical sequence.
- For those pharmacies utilizing common electronic prescription files, the Board adopted a rule (§2523) that allows such pharmacies to no longer be required to physically or electronically transfer prescriptions for refill dispensing purposes. However, other requirements are identified in the rule, so we encourage you to review that rule if your pharmacy has such a capacity.

New Website

As we notified you in the *July 2010 Newsletter*, the Board has developed and implemented a new website, located at www.pharmacy.la.gov. We encourage you to visit the site and let us know what you think. We believe the information is easier to find, and we know it will be easier to keep the information current. As part of the website, we have also acquired a new capacity to communicate by email distribution lists. We intend to use this new capacity to communicate important information to you more timely. For this reason, we strongly encourage you to ensure that we have your current email address. Although our old email addresses will be valid for a little while longer, we encourage you to use our new email address: info@pharmacy.la.gov.

New Licensure Information System

As we notified you in the *January 2010 Newsletter*, the Board has implemented a new licensure information system. We ceased using the previous system (acquired in the 1970s) on June 30, and we went 'live' on the new system on July 6. Our new system is capable of capturing, storing, and integrating licensure and enforcement information in a way not available to us before. We are confident this will help us manage your credentials much more efficiently.

With approximately 40,000 active credentials under management to transition to the new system, there were a few bumps in the road this past month. Implementing a new website at the same time made life even more interesting. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we worked through those challenges.

Finally, we now have more flexibility in adapting to multiple addresses for the same licensee. Included with this bulletin, you should find another page allowing you to designate multiple addresses and designate preferences. If you have such a preference, please let us know.