



Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

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BULLETIN No. 18-01

To: All pharmacies, pharmacists, interns, technicians, and technician candidates
From: Malcolm J Broussard, Executive Director
Date: July 1, 2018
Re: New Laws from 2018 Legislature Affecting Pharmacy Practice

Act 31 (SB 131) effective August 1, 2018

The Board sponsored this legislation, which makes some technical changes to the pharmacy law relative to the requirements for pharmacist licensure. The most significant change was to the method of licensure by reciprocity; the legislation removed the requirement for the applicant to demonstrate at least one year of practice as a pharmacist in another state prior to the date of the application for licensure in this state.

Act 32 (SB 134) effective August 1, 2018

The Board sponsored this legislation, which amended the controlled substance law relative to prescriptions for drugs listed in Schedule II. Previous legislation from the 2017 session authorized the pharmacist to dispense partial fills of prescriptions for opiate medications listed in Schedule II. The legislation this year expanded the authority for partial fills to include all medications listed in Schedule II. Federal law requires all partial fills for Schedule II to be completed within 30 days of the issue date.

Act 63 (HB 150) effective August 1, 2018

The Board sponsored this legislation, which amended the pharmacy law to authorize the Board to waive renewal fees for pharmacists and technicians who are spouses of persons serving on active duty in the military. The law already allows for such waivers for pharmacists and technicians serving on active duty; the new legislation will extend waiver of renewal fees to spouses of active duty military.

Act 64 (HB 151) effective August 1, 2018

The Board sponsored this legislation, which amended the pharmacy law, more specifically the definition of the term "approved college of pharmacy." Prior to the change, the definition included the specific title of a now-obsolete reference book listing all the foreign schools of pharmacy. The legislation removed the specific title of the obsolete reference book; the remainder of the definition remains the same.

Act 119 (HB 153) effective August 1, 2018

The Board sponsored this legislation, which amended the controlled substance law by adding two new chemicals to Schedule I and removes a drug (naldemedine) from Schedule II, consistent with previous scheduling actions by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Act 146 (SB 110) effective August 1, 2018

The Board sponsored this legislation, which amended the prescription monitoring program (PMP) law relative to the definition of the term “drug of concern.” Previous to the change, the definition referred to drugs of abuse; the legislation added the concept of including drugs whose use requires tracking for public health purposes. The definition still requires the Board to identify drugs of concern through the formal rulemaking process. The Board intends to propose a rule that will identify naloxone as a drug of concern. Once identified as a drug of concern, pharmacies will be required to report their dispensing transactions for naloxone to the state PMP database. The Board will then report the parish-level dispensing data for naloxone to the state agency coordinating the state’s response to the opioid crisis.

Act 186 (HB 45) effective August 1, 2018

The Board sponsored this legislation, which amended the controlled substance law relative to the licensing requirements for third-party logistics providers (3PL). This subset of prescription drug distributors were identified in the federal Drug Supply Chain Security Act of 2013, which requires 3PL entities to be licensed separately from other prescription drug distributors. The state legislation added 3PL entities to the licensing requirements and uses the same fee paid by other distributors.

Act 232 (SB 109) effective August 1, 2018

The Board sponsored this legislation, which amended the state PMP law to authorize the Board to enter into an agreement with the Dept. of Health to allow their epidemiologists to access the PMP data for more detailed analysis and to identify public health trends.

Act 317 (SB 241) effective August 1, 2018

This legislation has two sections; the first amended the insurance law to prevent pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from imposing ‘gag’ orders on pharmacists seeking to counsel their patients about more economical alternatives when filling their prescriptions. The second section amended the pharmacy law to authorize pharmacists to counsel their patients about the same topic.

Act 423 (SB 29) effective May 25, 2018

This legislation amended the insurance law and the Medicaid law to require all third party payors and their agents and affiliates doing business in Louisiana to use a single uniform prior authorization form; and further, directed the pharmacy and medical boards to jointly promulgate a rule containing a single uniform prior authorization form to be used by all third party payors and their agents and affiliates.

Act 496 (HB 627) effective May 23, 2018

This legislation amended the therapeutic marijuana law to add new qualifying medical conditions for the use of marijuana for therapeutic purposes. The legislation added four specific symptoms associated with autism spectrum disorder to the existing list of qualifying medical conditions.

Act 708 (HB 579) effective August 1, 2018

This legislation amended the therapeutic marijuana law to add new qualifying medical conditions for the use of marijuana for therapeutic purposes. The legislation added (1) glaucoma, (2) Parkinson’s disease, (3) severe muscle spasms, (4) intractable pain, and (5) post-traumatic stress disorder to the existing list of qualifying medical conditions. In addition, the legislation added a provision that no employer or workers’ compensation program shall be required to pay for marijuana used for therapeutic purposes.

Act 715 (HB 823) effective August 1, 2018

This legislation extended the termination date for the statewide medical marijuana program, from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2025.