

Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

Verification of Prescriber Licenses (01-07-106)

“Verification of the accuracy and authenticity of any prescription is the responsibility of the pharmacist.” (LAC 46:LIII.1111.B, page 149, *Louisiana Pharmacy Law Book*.) One element of the assessment of authenticity is the relevance of the medication prescribed to the scope of practice of the prescriber. Another element is the legal status of the prescriber’s license or other credentials. The following contact information is provided to facilitate the licensure verification process:

- Physicians (Board of Medical Examiners) 504/568-6820
www.lsbme.org
- Dentists (Board of Dentistry) 504/568-8574
www.lsbdb.org
- Veterinarians (Board of Veterinary Medicine) 225/342-2176
www.lsbvm.org
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (Board of Nursing) 504/838-5332
www.lsbvn.state.la.us
- Optometrists (Board of Optometry Examiners) 318/335-2989
- Drug Enforcement Administration permits (DEA New Orleans Office) 1-888/514-7302

Continuing Education (01-07-107)

The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy recently concluded the 2001 Continuing Education Audit project. Approximately 10 % of all pharmacists licensed by the Board (540 by random algorithm plus all Board members and staff) were surveyed. Of this number, approximately 10 % were unable to substantiate their compliance with the regulation requiring 15 hours of continuing education as a prerequisite for licensure renewal. The Board issued Notices of Non-compliance to approximately 70 pharmacists, as well as instructions for corrective action.

The regulations for continuing education for pharmacists are found at LAC 46:LIII.707 (pages 124-125 in the *Law Book*). The regulation requires pharmacists to earn a minimum of 15 hours of American Council on Pharmaceutical Education or Board-approved continuing education each year as a prerequisite for licensure renewal. Further, the regulation requires pharmacists to maintain copies of their continuing education records at their primary practice site for at least two years and make them available to the Board upon request.

The ACPE Universal Program Number contains five sets of characters connected by dashes. The last set of characters contains a letter followed by two numbers. The letter is a format designator (“L” for live offerings, “H” for home study and other mediated offerings, or “C” for offerings that contain both live and home study or mediated components). The date of credit for live offerings is the date of the presentation. The date of credit for home study or

combination offerings is the date the provider issues credit. Pharmacists must earn at least 15 hours of continuing education credited in the 12-month period prior to the renewal date (January 1).

Some pharmacists residing and practicing in other states have requested approval for non-ACPE approved offerings. If the Board of Pharmacy in the state where the education was provided has approved those offerings for their licensees, and the pharmacist can produce documentation to that effect, the Louisiana Board will accept the certificate.

The regulations for continuing education for certified pharmacy technicians are found at LAC 46:LIII.809 (page 134 in the *Law Book*). They are identical to those for the pharmacist, except the number of hours required is 10 hours in the 12-month period prior to the date of renewal (July 1). Since technicians have not had a full year in which to comply with this new regulation, it does not apply to 2001 renewals. However, in order to renew their certification for July 1, 2002, technicians must earn at least 10 hours of ACPE-approved continuing education credited in the 12-month period from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002.

Impaired Practitioners (01-07-108)

Did you know that a pharmacist or technician who has knowledge that another pharmacist or technician is impaired has a legal duty to report this information to the Board? Beyond the legal duty, established as a protective measure in the interest of public health, we also have an ethical duty to help our colleagues obtain professional assistance necessary to transition from treatment to recovery. Substance abuse and addiction are life-threatening diseases; the good news is help is available. The Board has helped dozens of pharmacists obtain treatment for their disease and rehabilitate their professional careers.

While chemical dependence is the most common type of impairment, other factors such as mental illness, physical deterioration, or neurological degeneration may also affect a pharmacist’s ability to practice safely. If you or someone you know is impaired, please call the Board office for a confidential conversation.

Staff Update (01-07-109)

While we regretfully announce the departure of Ms Lorraine Brinegar, we are pleased to report the recent hiring of two new licensing assistants. Ms Melissa Rushing and Ms Bella Schomberg both joined the staff on May 16; they assist Ms Villeneuve in the Licensure Division. All questions concerning the issuance and renewal of pharmacy permits, pharmacist licenses, pharmacy technician certificates, pharmacist intern registration/work permits, or pharmacy technician trainee work permits should be directed to either of these ladies. Welcome to the family, Bella and Melissa!

Disciplinary Actions (01-07-110)

Although every effort is made to ensure that the information presented here is correct, you should call the Board office at 225/925-6496 to verify the accuracy of the listing prior to making any decision based on this information. During its May 17 administrative hearing, the Board took final action in the following matters:

Raymond Haynes Garrett (Pharmacist License No. 10018), Voluntary Consent Agreement: License suspended for five years; all but 45 days of suspension stayed, then placed on probation for duration of period of suspension. License assessed \$5,000 plus administrative costs. **Charges:** (1) felony conviction in state court, (2) unlawful distribution or dispensing of Schedule IV controlled substance, (3) failure to maintain accurate records of controlled substances, and (4) failure to maintain readily retrievable records of controlled substances.

Raymond's Family Pharmacy (Pharmacy Permit No. 2108), Voluntary Consent Agreement: Permit suspended for five years; suspension stayed, then placed on probation for five years. Permit assessed \$5,000 plus administrative and investigative costs. **Charges:** (1) felony conviction in state court, (2) unlawful distribution or dispensing of Schedule IV controlled substance, (3) failure to maintain accurate records of controlled substances, and (4) failure to maintain readily retrievable records of controlled substances.

Rochelle Charmaine Fernandez (Pharmacy Technician Trainee Work Permit No. 3283), Voluntary Consent Agreement: When person qualifies for technician certification, the certificate shall be placed on probation for one year. **Charges:** unlawful assistance in practice of pharmacy without current registration or certification.

Maria M. Humphries (Pharmacy Technician Certificate No. 1278), Formal Hearing: Certificate revoked. Certificate assessed \$3,000 plus investigative costs, to be paid prior to any application for reinstatement. **Charges:** (1) evasion of state pharmacy laws or regulations, (2) unlawful possession with intent to distribute Schedule III controlled substance, and (3) failure to timely report change of address or employment.

Gwenetta T. Long (Pharmacy Technician Trainee Work Permit No. 5287), Formal Hearing: Work permit revoked. **Charge:** (1) obtained work permit by fraud.

Medic Pharmacy of Ruston (Pharmacy Permit No. 2773), Voluntary Consent Agreement: Permit suspended for five years; suspension stayed, and permit placed on probation for five years. Permit assessed \$5,000 plus administrative and investigative costs. **Charges:** (1) evasion of state pharmacy laws or regulations, (2)

unlawful distribution or dispensing of Schedule III controlled substances, (3) unlawful distribution or dispensing of Schedule IV controlled substances, (4) failure to maintain accurate records of controlled substances, and (5) failure to maintain adequate security of prescription department.

Charles Randall Rowe (Pharmacist License No. 10681), Voluntary Consent Agreement: License placed on probation for one year. **Charge:** (1) felony conviction in federal court.

Corey Gabriel Bordelon (Pharmacy Technician Certificate No. 1446), Voluntary Consent Agreement: Certificate revoked. **Charges:** (1) evasion of state pharmacy laws or regulations, (2) unlawful possession with intent to distribute Schedule III controlled substance.

Mark Alan Herring (Pharmacist License No. 13768), Voluntary Consent Agreement: License suspended indefinitely. **Charge:** (1) violation of terms of probation.

Candace Ory Chataigner (Pharmacy Technician Certificate No. 1958), Board accepted Voluntary Surrender, resulting in the indefinite suspension of the certificate, effective April 26, 2001.

In addition, the Board issued formal warnings to one pharmacist intern, one pharmacist, and two pharmacy permits. The Board also levied assessments against one pharmacist and four pharmacy permits. Regarding requests for reinstatement, the Board granted one request for unrestricted reinstatement and denied another request. Regarding impaired practitioners, the Board reinstated two pharmacists and one certified technician on probation, denied one request for reinstatement, and accepted the voluntary surrender of one pharmacist license.

Special Note (01-07-111)

The *Louisiana Board of Pharmacy News* is considered an official method of notification to pharmacists and certified pharmacy technicians licensed by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy. **These Newsletters will be used in administrative hearings as proof of notification.** Please read them carefully and keep them for future reference.

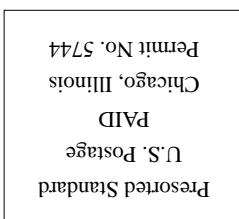
Page 4 – July 2001

The *Louisiana Board of Pharmacy News* is published by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation, Inc. to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of the Foundation or the Board unless expressly so stated.

Malcolm J. Broussard, RPh - State News Editor

Carmen A. Catizone, MS, RPh - National News Editor & Executive Editor

Courtney M. Karzen - Editorial Manager



National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation, Inc.
700 Busse Highway
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
LOUISIANA BOARD OF PHARMACY