



# Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

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www.labp.com

Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

## **License and Permit Renewals for 2010 (09-10-330)**

The renewal cycle for pharmacists and pharmacies will open on November 1, 2009. The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy no longer automatically mails renewal applications to every pharmacist or pharmacy; instead, we will send a reminder postcard just prior to November 1. The postcard will remind you of the following three options you have to renew your credentials:

1. visit the Board's Web site at [www.labp.com](http://www.labp.com) and renew your credential online using a credit card;
2. visit the same Web site to download and print an application form, then complete and mail the application with the appropriate fee using a check or money order; or
3. send a written notice to the Board office (mail, fax, or e-mail) with your name, credential number, and mailing address requesting the Board to mail an application form to you.

Credentials renewed online will be mailed within one or two business days; credentials renewed with paper applications will be mailed within two to four weeks, depending on the volume of paper applications received.

Any address changes received in our office after October 9, 2009, will not be reflected on your reminder postcard. If the postal service fails to deliver your reminder postcard by November 15, 2009, then it becomes **your** responsibility to obtain an application form or renew your credential online.

The online renewal function of the Web site is automatically timed to activate at 12:01 AM on November 1, 2009, and to deactivate at midnight on December 31, 2009. While the Board makes every effort to maintain the online convenience during the renewal period, our service provider may experience weather-related or other unforeseen technical difficulties from time to time – as it did on the last day of the 2007 renewal cycle. You have 60 days to renew your credential, and it is your choice as to when you complete that duty. If you choose to wait until the last day and the Web site is not

available, then you will be responsible for the consequences of your failure to renew your credential in a timely manner. Why take a chance? Please do not wait until the last minute of the last day.

### **Pharmacist License Renewal**

- ◆ Current pharmacist licenses shall expire at midnight on December 31, 2009. There is no grace period, and a pharmacist shall not practice with an expired license.
- ◆ If you elect to use a paper application, then we suggest you submit your completed application and \$100 fee to the Board office no later than December 1, 2009. Please do not forget to sign and date the application and answer the questions at the bottom of the form – if they are not all answered, or if there is no supporting documentation with an affirmative response, then the application will be returned to you as incomplete, resulting in a delay in the renewal of your license.
- ◆ The renewal of an expired license will incur a 50% penalty as well as a lapsed license reinstatement fee, resulting in a total charge of \$350.
- ◆ If it is important for you to know when your paper application is received at the Board office, then we suggest you use a mailing service with tracking options, eg, DHL, FedEx, United Parcel Service, or United States Postal Service.

### **Pharmacy Permit Renewal**

- ◆ Current pharmacy permits shall expire at midnight on December 31, 2009. There is no grace period, and a pharmacy shall not operate with an expired permit. Recent history reveals the usual fine for this violation is \$5,000.
- ◆ If you elect to use a paper application, then we suggest you submit your completed application and \$150 fee to the Board office no later than December 1, 2009. Please do not forget to sign and date the application and answer the questions at the bottom of the form – if they are not all answered, or if there is no supporting documentation

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## **Pharmacy Security and Safety Prove Necessary Component in Pharmacists' Training**

Pharmacy robbery – no one ever thinks it will happen to them, but those who have experienced it know it **can** happen to anyone. To address the importance of recognizing actions to follow if faced with a robbery, several boards of pharmacy have included pharmacy safety resources in their state newsletters and on their Web sites. In addition, to keep current licensees aware and up to speed on safety measures, procedures can be directly taught and reiterated in the pharmacy. Likewise, at least one college of pharmacy has begun incorporating pharmacy safety training in its curriculum and recently saw the extreme benefits of doing so.

On Wednesday, July 8, 2009, Dustin Bryan, a P2 doctor of pharmacy candidate at Campbell University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, quickly learned how imperative pharmacy safety training really was when he experienced a pharmacy robbery first hand. Just as Bryan and his fellow employees were preparing to close the store, two gunmen entered the North Carolina pharmacy and approached the counter demanding OxyContin®. They left with bags filled with OxyContin and Percocet®, having a retail value of nearly \$10,000.

Luckily, all employees involved remained unharmed and despite the situation, Bryan was able to remain calm, focusing on lessons he recently learned during his pharmacy management course at Campbell.

Bryan shared his experience in the university's college of pharmacy alumni e-Newsletter. In the article Bryan states, "I crouched down hoping they hadn't seen me so I could get to a safe place in an office behind the pharmacy to call the police. They saw me as I was crawling and made me come to the front of the pharmacy. My mind was running through a class Dr Cisneros taught dealing with a robbery," he explains. "I knew what type of questions the police would be asking from our lecture, and I was asking myself those very questions while the robbery was happening. It was a very intense and scary moment . . . but I am thankful for the class I had and that nobody was hurt during the whole ordeal."

In December 2008, a safety DVD, *Pharmacy Security – Robbery*, accompanied the shipments of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® 2009 Survey of Pharmacy Law that were sent to the schools and colleges of pharmacy. The DVD was an educational offering from Purdue Pharma L.P. provided to the schools as part of an initiative to promote pharmacy safety education. Endorsed by National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, Federal Bureau of Investigation Law Enforcement Executive Development Association, and National Community Pharmacists Association, the 15-minute video contains information that may be critical to preparing pharmacists in the event that they are faced with a robbery.

It was this DVD that Robert Cisneros, PhD, assistant professor at the university, implemented in his pharmacy management

course – the very same course that helped Bryan stay calm during the robbery. Cisneros went a step further by arranging for the head of campus security to speak during the course.

"One of the biggest values of the DVD was pointing out things to focus on during a robbery such as the robber's appearance – clothes, height, weight – and not just focusing on the gun," states Cisneros. He was glad to have received the DVD, explaining that, "it was just the right length, added a lot to the class, and led to great discussions." Cisneros went on to share that he was surprised to learn only 50% of the students in his class this past spring had some form of training on what to do if robbed, though this was a significant increase from the less than 5% who indicated so a few years prior.

Pharmacy robberies may not be avoidable; however, with the proper knowledge, individuals faced with these frightening situations may be better prepared to avoid harm and to assist law enforcement officials in catching criminals before additional robberies occur.

The safety DVD mentioned above may be viewed on the RxPatrol® Web site at [www.rxpatrol.org](http://www.rxpatrol.org). RxPatrol is a collaborative effort between industry and law enforcement designed to collect, collate, analyze, and disseminate pharmacy theft information. The safety DVD, along with a variety of other non-branded educational materials, is also available through the Purdue Pharma Medical Education Resource Catalog, accessible at [www.partnersagainstpain.com](http://www.partnersagainstpain.com) under Pain Education Center.

## **Concerns with Patients' Use of More than One Pharmacy**



*This column was prepared by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP). ISMP is an independent nonprofit agency that analyzes medication errors, near misses, and potentially hazardous conditions as reported by pharmacists and other practitioners. ISMP then makes appropriate contacts with companies and regulators, gathers expert opinion about prevention measures, and publishes its recommendations. To read about the risk reduction strategies that you can put into practice today, subscribe to ISMP Medication Safety Alert!® Community/Ambulatory Care Edition by visiting [www.ismp.org](http://www.ismp.org). ISMP is a federally certified Patient Safety Organization, providing legal protection and confidentiality for submitted patient safety data and error reports. ISMP is also a FDA MedWatch partner. Call 1-800-FAIL-SAF(E) to report medication errors to the ISMP Medication Errors Reporting Program or report online at [www.ismp.org](http://www.ismp.org). ISMP address: 200 Lakeside Dr, Suite 200, Horsham, PA 19044. Phone: 215/947-7797. E-mail: [ismpinfo@ismp.org](mailto:ismpinfo@ismp.org).*

Perhaps it is not readily apparent, but medication safety could be compromised if patients practice polypharmacy to take advantage of widely publicized programs offering discounted or free medications. With tough economic times, patients may choose to fill or refill their prescriptions at multiple pharmacy



locations to save money, since taking advantage of such offers may cost less than filling their prescription at their usual pharmacy and paying the insurance co-pay.

Normally, when a customer presents a prescription, the pharmacy sends information about the drug and the patient to third-party payers and/or the patient's pharmacy benefit managers (PBM) for reimbursement.

If patients are paying out of pocket for the prescription, the pharmacy can notify the PBM so the medication can be tracked, but notification is not required. In these circumstances, the PBM and insurer may not be made aware that the prescription has been dispensed and no adjudication or drug utilization clinical screening of the prescription will be performed. Normally, medications are screened by the PBM's computer system, which includes all prescription medications regardless of where they were dispensed, and dispensing pharmacists are alerted to drug duplications, drug interactions, and some other unsafe conditions. This checking process will not occur if the prescription is not sent to the PBM. This also has an impact on hospitals that use outside vendors that obtain PBM data through Surescripts in order to populate patient medication profiles upon admissions to the emergency department or hospital. This could decrease the accuracy of drug lists collected for medication reconciliation since these vendors access their information from PBMs and insurers.

For these reasons, patients need to be educated about the importance of sharing insurance information wherever they have their prescriptions filled, even when the insurance is not being billed. Community pharmacists can help by submitting claims to insurance carriers, as cash, to keep an accurate medication profile for the patient. This is especially necessary if the patient is only filling a prescription for a drug on the \$4 list from your pharmacy, but you suspect they may be taking other medications and obtaining them elsewhere. It is also important to expand our efforts to encourage patients to keep a complete list of medications, herbals, nutritional supplements, vitamins, and prescription drugs and to show this list to every provider of care they visit. Community pharmacies can also update patient medication profiles in their computer systems to include prescription and over-the-counter medications obtained at other pharmacies, including mail-order, and promoting and providing a written copy of this list to the patient upon request.

## **CDC Announces Get Smart Week to Help Decrease Antibiotic Resistance**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is holding Get Smart Week October 5-11 to emphasize CDC's public health effort to decrease antibiotic resistance, including how pharmacists can become involved. Because antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing public health problems, CDC launched the Get Smart Web site to teach about the potential danger of antibiotic resistance and what can be done to prevent it.

The Web site contains patient education materials, updated guidelines for health care providers, campaign materials, and additional resources, including information in Spanish, to help increase the public health awareness of antibiotic resistance and the importance of obtaining influenza vaccines in time for the upcoming flu season. As most states now allow pharmacists to immunize, they can help contribute to public health awareness on who should get flu shots and appropriate antibiotic use in the community. The Get Smart Web site can be accessed at [www.cdc.gov/getsmart/](http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/).

## **FDA Approves Vaccine for 2009-2010 Seasonal Influenza and H1N1**

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a vaccine for 2009-2010 seasonal influenza in the United States. FDA has also approved four vaccines against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. The seasonal influenza vaccine will not protect against the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus. More information is available at [www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements](http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements).

## **ISMP: Do Not Store Insulin Vials in Open Cartons – Risk of Mix-up High**

ISMP warns that storing insulin vials inside their cardboard cartons after the packages have been opened can lead to mix-ups, and potential medical emergencies, if vials are accidentally returned to the wrong carton after being used. The next patient care worker looking for a particular insulin product could read the label on the carton, assume that it accurately reflects what is inside, and end up administering the wrong product. To avoid such a mishap, ISMP recommends that the cartons be discarded, either in the pharmacy before the insulin is dispensed, or when it is received at the nursing station.

## **FDA Takes Actions on Pain Medications Containing Propoxyphene**

FDA announced in July that it will require manufacturers of propoxyphene-containing products to strengthen the label, including the boxed warning, emphasizing the potential for overdose when using these products. FDA will also require manufacturers to provide a medication guide for patients stressing the importance of using the drugs as directed. In addition, FDA is requiring a new safety study assessing unanswered questions about the effects of propoxyphene on the heart at higher than recommended doses. Findings from this study, as well as other data, could lead to additional regulatory action. In its July 7 denial of a citizen petition requesting a phased withdrawal of propoxyphene, FDA said that, despite "serious concerns . . . , the benefits of using the medication for pain relief at recommended doses outweighs the safety risks at this time." Additional information can be found at [www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm170769.htm](http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm170769.htm).

with an affirmative response, then the application will be returned to you as incomplete, resulting in a delay in the renewal of your permit.

- ◆ The renewal of an expired permit will incur a 50% penalty as well as a lapsed permit reinstatement fee, resulting in a total charge of \$412.50.
- ◆ The renewal of an expired controlled dangerous substance license will incur a 50% penalty as well as a lapsed license reinstatement fee, resulting in a total charge of \$237.50.
- ◆ If it is important for you to know when your paper application is received at the Board office, then we suggest you use a mailing service with tracking options, eg, DHL, FedEx, United Parcel Service, or United States Postal Service.

### **Pharmacist Responsibility (09-10-331)**

If you are a pharmacist-in-charge, you shall, at all times, ensure that all personnel you allow to perform professional functions in your prescription department are properly credentialed with an active and current credential. If you are a staff pharmacist or relief pharmacist, it is your responsibility to ensure that the personnel assisting you in the prescription department are properly credentialed with an active and current credential to perform those duties in your presence. In the event a compliance officer discovers anyone performing professional functions without the necessary credentials, all pharmacists present, as well as the pharmacist-in-charge, will be identified in the investigative report filed by the compliance officer. Further, in the event of a formal inquiry by the Board, those pharmacists so identified will bear the risk of potential disciplinary action.

### **Prescription Monitoring Program Update (09-10-332)**

The Board initiated the implementation of the prescription monitoring program in September 2008, by notifying dispensers of controlled substances of their reporting obligation, and further, required the reporting of all eligible transactions retroactive to June 1, 2008, to the program's database no later than December 31, 2008. In December 2008, the Board notified all prescribers and dispensers wishing to access patient information in the database how to obtain that authority. The Board opened the database to queries from authorized users on January 1, 2009.

The Board monitored the reporting status of all pharmacies during the implementation process, and we are pleased to report that all pharmacies have filed their reports. This should provide some degree of assurance of the comprehensive nature of the information in the database. We will continue to monitor the reporting status of all pharmacies, as well as other dispensers of controlled substances.

The Board prepared its first annual report for the program, describing the operations and results for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. We submitted that report to the required

legislative oversight committees, and a copy can be accessed on the Board's Web site at [www.labp.com](http://www.labp.com). Here are some highlights from that report:

- ◆ We have approximately 11.2 million prescription transactions in the database, representing controlled substance prescriptions dispensed to Louisiana residents since June 1, 2008.
- ◆ 1,040 prescribers (from a total of 17,968 licensed) completed the training program and acquired authorized user status.
- ◆ 603 pharmacists (from a total of 6,890 licensed) completed the training program and acquired authorized user status.
- ◆ Of the 160,119 queries during the first six months, 76% originated from prescribers, 23% from pharmacists, and the remainder in response to authorized requests from law enforcement agencies and licensing agencies.
- ◆ When the Board compared the numbers for certain drugs for the months of December 2008 and May 2009, it made the following observations:
  - Hydrocodone/APAP: 4% decrease in the number of prescriptions and 6.9% fewer doses.
  - Alprazolam: 3.4% decrease in the number of prescriptions and 2.2% fewer doses.
  - Methadone: 13% decrease in the number of prescriptions and the number of doses.
  - Oxycodone: 17% decrease in the number of prescriptions and 12% fewer doses.

The Board is working with other states to develop the technical capacity and legal permissions to share program data with prescribers, dispensers, and law enforcement agencies from other states. We also intend to develop educational programming relative to the use and misuse of controlled substances. After six months of operation, it appears the program has already assisted in the reduction of diversion of controlled substances in an efficient and cost-effective manner, which is the goal of the program, as well as the intent of the legislature in authorizing the development and implementation of the program.

### **Disciplinary Actions (09-10-333)**

Although every effort is made to ensure this information is correct, you should contact the Board office at 225/925-6496 or [labp@labp.com](mailto:labp@labp.com) to verify the accuracy of any listing before making any decision based on this information.

During its May 7, 2009 formal administrative hearing, the Board took final action in the following matters:

**MIT of Louisiana, LLC dba Medical Infusion Therapy (PHY.3867):** Permit revoked; and further, assessed \$20,000 plus administrative and hearing costs.

**Homer Lee Johnson III (CPT.6463):** Certificate revoked; and further, assessed \$1,000 plus administrative and hearing costs.

**Jessica Brewer Ballard (CPT.8408):** Certificate revoked; and further, assessed \$5,000 plus administrative and hearing costs.

During its August 5-6, 2009 meetings, the Board took final action in the following matters:

**Jeffrey Keion Wallis (Applicant for Candidate Registration):** Board denied the application and refused to issue the registration.

**Eric Shyrome Thomas (Applicant for Candidate Registration):** Board denied the application and refused to issue the registration.

**Takeisa Dawnyai Walker (Applicant for Candidate Registration):** Board denied the application and refused to issue the registration.

**Cory Ryan Prince (Applicant for Candidate Registration):** Board denied the application and refused to issue the registration.

**Denise Gregoire (Applicant for Candidate Registration):** Board denied the application and refused to issue the registration.

**BWS Medical Express (Applicant for Pharmacy Permit):** Board denied the application and refused to issue the permit.

**Charissa Dawn Abshire (PST.15560):** Accepted voluntary surrender, resulting in active suspension for an indefinite period of time, effective May 13, 2009.

**Raquelle Danielle Woodard (PNT.44998):** Accepted voluntary surrender, resulting in active suspension of the registration for an indefinite period of time, effective August 4, 2009.

**Claude Albert Henderson, Jr (PST.11775):** Consent Order: Granted request for reinstatement of the previously suspended license, contingent upon the completion of certain terms, then placed the special work permit and subsequently reinstated license on probation for five years, beginning August 5, 2009, subject to certain terms as noted in the order.

**Christi Shantelle Williams (PST.15233):** Consent Order: Granted request for reinstatement of the previously suspended license, then placed license on probation for five years, beginning August 5, 2009, subject to certain terms as noted in the order.

**Leo Gerard Riche (PST.14961):** Consent Order: Granted request for reinstatement of the previously suspended license, and then placed the license on probation for 10 years, beginning August 5, 2009, subject to certain terms as noted in the order.

**Chris David Bonvillain (PST.14463):** Consent Order: Granted request for reinstatement of the previously suspended license, and then placed license on probation for five years, beginning August 5, 2009, subject to certain terms as noted in the order.

**Daniel Mark Hardin (PNT.46095):** Consent Order: Issued registration, then placed it on probation for five years, beginning June 25, 2009, subject to certain terms as noted in the order.

**Jimmy Ray Donald, Jr (PNT.46103):** Consent Order: Issued registration, then placed it on probation for five years, beginning August 5, 2009, subject to certain terms as noted in the order.

**River Parishes Hospital Pharmacy (PHY.5310):** Granted request for termination of probationary restrictions originally imposed for a three-year period on October 1, 2007.

**Walter Birdsall Pharmacy (PHY.1188):** Consent Order: Assessed \$2,000 plus costs, for excessive quantity of expired medications in inventory.

**Walgreen Pharmacy No. 110-01790 (PHY.2125):** Consent Order: Assessed \$2,500 plus costs, for allowing unregistered candidate to practice.

**Walgreen Pharmacy No. 110-02920 (PHY.2841):** Consent Order: Permit placed on probation for 30 days, and further, assessed \$5,000 plus costs, for failure to submit written self-improvement plan to address prescription dispensing errors, as agreed to in previous consent order from February 2009.

**Cardinal Health Solutions dba Medical Plaza Pharmacy (PHY.5937):** Consent Order: Assessed \$5,000 plus costs, for improper acquisition of medications by community pharmacy using hospital pharmacy account.

**Cardinal Health Solutions dba Lake Charles Memorial Hospital Pharmacy (PHY.5929):** Consent Order: Assessed \$5,000 plus costs, for allowing community pharmacy to improperly acquire medications using its hospital pharmacy account.

**Kevin Alan Broussard (PST.15462):** Consent Order: License suspended for five years, effective May 14, 2009, and then automatically reinstated on probation on November 15, 2009, for the remainder of the suspensive period, subject to certain terms as noted in the order.

**Deborah Louise Slaughter-Ford (CPT.6540):** Consent Order: Received letter of reprimand, and further, assessed \$250 plus costs, for improper access to pharmacy in the absence of a pharmacist.

**Kalisha Jenay Slaughter (CPT.6751):** Consent Order: Received letter of reprimand and further, assessed \$250 plus costs, for improper access to pharmacy in the absence of a pharmacist.

**Lurthie Slaughter Leatherman (CPT.2127):** Consent Order: Received letter of reprimand and further, assessed \$250 plus costs, for improper access to pharmacy in the absence of a pharmacist.

**Ardoin's Crescent Drug Store (PHY.2236):** Consent Order: Controlled dangerous substance license revoked, effective July 31, 2009, and further, pharmacy permit

placed on probation for five years, effective July 31, 2009, and further, assessed \$10,000 plus costs, for excessive shortages of controlled substances.

**Amos Lee Ardoin (PST.6035):** Consent Order: License placed on probation for five years, effective July 31, 2009, subject to certain terms as noted in the order, and further, assessed \$5,000 plus costs.

**Lincare dba United Medical (PHY.4647):** Accepted voluntary surrender, resulting in active suspension of the permit for an indefinite period of time, effective June 22, 2009.

**Sabrina Denise Smith (CPT.8083):** Consent Order: Certificate revoked, with permanent prohibition on application for reinstatement, for alleged diversion of controlled substances from employer pharmacy.

**Latricia Lockhart Ventura (CPT.5659):** Consent Order: Certificate revoked, with permanent prohibition on application for reinstatement, for alleged diversion of controlled substances from employer pharmacy.

**Vintage Poirier, DDS (CDS.31619):** Accepted voluntary surrender, resulting in active suspension of the license for an indefinite period of time, effective June 3, 2009.

**Jimmy Martin Taylor II (PST.14644):** Accepted voluntary surrender, resulting in active suspension of the license for an indefinite period of time, effective June 8, 2009.

**Brandy Nicole Bush (CPT.7306):** Accepted voluntary surrender, resulting in active suspension of the certificate for an indefinite period of time, effective May 26, 2009.

**Jeanna Lee Hester (PST.18716):** Accepted voluntary surrender, resulting in active suspension of the license for an indefinite period of time, effective July 21, 2009.

**Nastassia Yvette Nash (CPT.7447):** Accepted voluntary surrender, resulting in active suspension of the certificate for an indefinite period of time, effective July 6, 2009.

On this same date, the Board also issued letters of warning to one pharmacist, one technician, and one pharmacy permit owner, as well as letters of reprimand to three pharmacists, one technician, and one pharmacy permit owner. In addition, they granted one request for the reinstatement of a lapsed license from one pharmacist.

### **Calendar Notes (09-10-334)**

The next Board meeting and administrative hearing will be November 18-19, 2009, at the Board office. The office will be closed November 11 in observance of Veterans Day, November 26-27 for Thanksgiving, and December 25 in observance of Christmas Day.

### **Special Note (09-10-335)**

The *Louisiana Board of Pharmacy Newsletter* is considered an official method of notification to pharmacies, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician candidates credentialed by the Board. **These Newsletters will be used in administrative hearings as proof of notification.** Please read them carefully. We encourage you to keep them in the back of the *Louisiana Pharmacy Law Book* for future reference.

### **Lagniappe (09-10-336)**

“When a man sits with a pretty girl for an hour, it seems like a minute. But let him sit on a hot stove for a minute, and it’s longer than any hour. That’s relativity.” – *Albert Einstein*

