



Georgia Board of Pharmacy *NEWS*

July 2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings

It's hard to imagine that 2022 is nearing the mid-point of the year! Time certainly has a way of moving quickly and the profession of pharmacy is no different. The pandemic is for the most part over but that does not mean the demand for our services has decreased. In fact, the exact opposite has occurred. The pandemic certainly brought to light how valuable pharmacy is, and should be, to a patient's total healthcare structure. No doubt that our profession is rapidly changing as a result. Besides filling scripts we also monitor adherence, administer immunizations, counsel on clinical initiatives and provide nutrition consultations in the course of our daily routines. I mention all of the above in order to tell you this: I'm humbled by the incredible emphasis each of you place on patient care daily. The citizens of our state are in great hands when it comes to pharmacy services so "Thank You!"

As you read over our newsletter, please keep in mind that the Board is charged with protecting the public interest but also here to support each of you in all aspects. We are here to help you through the changes. The information contained in each edition is important so please share it with your associates and staff. I sincerely hope you find it useful in your everyday practice.

Sincerely,
Dean Stone

GEORGIA DRUGS AND NARCOTICS AGENCY UPDATE

GDNA would like to remind pharmacy employees to be cautious when providing wholesale account information over the phone or through email. Several pharmacies and various wholesalers throughout Georgia have fallen victim to schemes resulting in losses loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Recently Amerisource Bergen's Corporate Investigations department released a notice with the following information:

1) Product Recall Fraud (pharmacy/manufacturer): In this scheme, bad actors call pharmacies and other pharmaceutical partners, posing to be an employee of a legitimate manufacturer. During the call, bad actors explain a product recall has been initiated and the alleged "recalled" product needs to be returned. To make the scheme seem more realistic, the bad

actors then follow the call up with a fraudulent recall letter. The letter identifies all products that are allegedly being recalled, with instructions to re-package the product for pickup. The bad actors then arrange for an unauthorized courier to pick up the product. The bad actors indicate the "recalled" product will be replaced, which never actually happens.

2) Pharmacy/Wholesaler Fraud: In this scheme, bad actors first contact wholesale distributor customers to fraudulently obtain account information. The bad actors then use this account information to place fraudulent orders with wholesale distributors. Wholesalers then send the fraudulently ordered product to their customers. The bad actors, posing as the wholesaler, remain in contact with the customer and indicate the product was shipped in error. The bad actors inform the customer the product will be retrieved by a courier service and a credit will be issued once received. The product is then retrieved by an unauthorized courier service and shipped to an unknown location.

3) Bank Account/payment Fraud: In this scheme, customer email accounts are compromised by bad actors. The bad actors then monitor the compromised email accounts to obtain financial related communications. The bad actors then create a fraudulent email domain posing as the customer's wholesale distributor and seek immediate payment for outstanding invoices. The bad actors then request payment be made to a new bank account they created. This account is not associated with the wholesale distributor.

If you are interested in applying for a position with the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, please visit our website at www.GDNA.Georgia.GOV. We are currently accepting applications for a Special Agent position in Southwest Georgia. If you live in or around Southwest Georgia and you have at least two years of professional experience as a pharmacist, we encourage you to apply.

Dennis M. Troughton Sr.
Director GDNA

Michael Karnbach
Deputy Director GDNA

LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS UPDATE

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy would like to remind everyone of the importance of Patient Counseling and the requirements set forth. Please visit Board Rule 480-31-.01 (c) for more information.

(c) Upon receipt of a prescription drug order and following a review of the patient's record, the pharmacist or the pharmacy intern operating under the direct supervision of the pharmacist shall personally offer to discuss matters which will enhance or optimize drug therapy with each patient or caregiver of such a patient. Such discussion shall be in person, whenever practicable, or by telephone and shall include appropriate elements of patient counseling, based on the professional judgment of the pharmacist. Such elements may include but are not limited to the following:

- (1)** The name and description of the drug;
- (2)** The dosage form, dose, route of administration and duration of therapy;
- (3)** The intended use of the drug and expected action or result;
- (4)** Any special directions or precautions for preparation, administration, or use by the patient;
- (5)** Common severe side effects or adverse effects or interactions and therapeutic contraindications that may be encountered, including their avoidance, and the action required if such side effect, adverse effect, interaction, or therapeutic contraindication occurs;
- (6)** Techniques for self-monitoring of drug therapy;
- (7)** The proper storage of the drug;

- (8) Prescription refill information;
 - (9) The action to be taken in the event of a missed dose; and
 - (10) The comments of the pharmacist relevant to the patient’s drug therapy, including any other information peculiar to the specific patient or drug.
- (c) Additional forms of patient information may be used to supplement verbal patient counseling when appropriate or available.

GENERAL UPDATES

Pharmacy Technician Registration

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy is responsible for issuing pharmacy technician registrations for the state of Georgia. "Registered Pharmacy technician" shall mean those support persons registered with the board who are utilized in pharmacies and whose responsibilities are to provide nonjudgmental technical services concerned with the preparation for dispensing of drugs under the direct supervision and responsibility of a pharmacist. Reference Rule 480-15-.01(g)

Applicants may apply for initial registrations online via the board’s website: [Login \(mylicense.com\)](http://mylicense.com). The online registration process consists of three steps:

Complete the online registration and submit \$100 application fee. When creating your user id and password, use letters and/or numbers – **ONLY! NO SPECIAL CHARACTERS.**

Download the “pharmacy tech online application supplement packet” and mail to Georgia Pharmacy Board at 2 Peachtree Street, 6th Floor, Atlanta Georgia 30303.

Complete background check by accessing Gemalto website, <https://www.aps.gemalto.com/index.htm> and following the step-by-step instructions in the supplement package to register and schedule to complete the fingerprint requirement.

Do not delay completing the above steps. You do not have to wait for notice from the Board to complete your application. Delays in completing the steps will delay processing of your registration.

Important facts:

- Pharmacy technician registration could require up to 30 business days for processing. Any application deficiency will delay registration issuance.
- Application fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE**
- Applications and fees are valid for one (1) year from the date of submission.
- Minimum education requirement is a High School Diploma or GED. For students currently enrolled in high school, proof of enrollment must be submitted from your school’s administrator/registrar.
- There is no pharmacy class/course requirement to become a “registered” technician
- There is no exam requirement to become a “registered” pharmacy technician
- Being “certified” and “registered” are two separate processes and requirements
- The Georgia Board of Pharmacy does not require technicians to be “certified” to become a Pharmacy Technician with the Georgia Board of Pharmacy. However, the Board recognizes only certification through a Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) nationally certified pharmacy technician program or the ExCPT exam provided by the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) Pharmacy Technician Certification (CPhT). If an applicant is PTCB or NHA certified, he/she will need to submit a copy of his/her PTCB or NHA certificate to the Board.

- The minimum age requirement to become a pharmacy technician is 17 years of age.
- Any Georgia registered pharmacy technician that allows his/her license to lapse must re-apply by requesting a paper application by contacting the board office.
- Georgia does not reciprocate/transfer pharmacy technician licenses/registrations from other jurisdictions. Every person attempting to work as a technician in Georgia must apply via the three-step process.
- A pharmacy technician applicant cannot begin working until he/she has been approved and issued a Georgia registration.
- A pharmacy technician registration is renewable June 30 of each odd numbered year.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

Date: July 13, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the public wishing to join Open Session of the board meeting may do so via conference call. Conference call information will be posted with the agenda prior to the meeting.

Board Members

President: Dean Stone

Vice President: Michael Azzolin

Michael Brinson

Young Chang

Cecil Cordle

Chuck Page

Bill Prather

Consumer Member: Jim

Bracewell

2022 Public Board Meetings

January 19, 2022

February 16, 2022

March 16, 2022

April 13, 2022

May 11, 2022

June 15, 2022

July 13, 2022

August 17, 2022

September 14, 2022

October 12, 2022

November 16 & 17, 2022

December 14, 2022

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