



Georgia Board of Pharmacy *NEWS*

October 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- American Pharmacist Month
- Important Notice
- GDNA Updates
- Laws, Rules, and Regulation Updates
- General Updates

AMERICAN PHARMACIST MONTH

October signifies a time to celebrate “American Pharmacist Month” and the longstanding traditions of expert patient care across our great state. The Board would like to take this opportunity to recognize each of you and extend our sincere appreciation to all that you do on a daily basis to protect and enhance the health of our citizens. Pharmacy is a vital part of the total healthcare team and thank you again for your role in enhancing our profession.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In accordance with 480-3-.01, all licensed pharmacists will be required to renew licenses by December 31, 2022. The renewal process will be open in the coming months, be sure to check for notices. Additionally, all pharmacists renewing licenses will be required meet the continuing education requirements under 480-3-.03. The specific number of continuing education hours required for renewal are outlined below.

480-3-.03(3)(4)(5)

(3) As a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her license, a pharmacist must complete not less than thirty (30) hours of approved continuing education.

(4) One hour of C.E. is defined as 0.1 C.E.U. Each pharmacist in the State of Georgia must obtain 30 hours of continuing education or 3.0 C.E.U.'s per biennium for license renewal.

(a) Certificates documenting that 30 hours of approved continuing education or 3.0 C.E.U.'s must be completed and dated within the biennium.

(5) A pharmacist licensed before or during the first six (6) months of the biennium (January to June), shall be required to obtain 30 hours of C.E. A pharmacist licensed during the following twelve (12) months (June to July) shall be required to obtain 15 hours of C.E. A pharmacist licensed during the last six (6) months of the biennium shall be exempt from continuing education for that biennium only.

GEORGIA DRUGS AND NARCOTICS AGENCY UPDATE

It is the Mission of the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency (GDNA) to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring all laws pertaining to pharmacy, dangerous drugs, and controlled substances are followed by both registrants and any others who handle or possess pharmaceuticals. As the enforcement arm of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy, our

agents inspect every licensed pharmacy in the State of Georgia. Agents conduct investigations of these pharmacies related to public complaints and administrative issues. Agents also conduct criminal investigations regarding prescription drug abuse throughout the state which may or may not involve licensed pharmacies.

GDNA currently has sixteen employees. This includes the Director, Deputy Director, three office staff, and eleven field agents, all who are pharmacists as well as POST certified law enforcement officers. GDNA is responsible for the enforcement oversight of about 3,700 in state pharmacy facility licenses, 16,600 pharmacists, 2200 pharmacy interns, and over 26,800 pharmacy technicians. Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 GDNA completed 2573 inspections at licensed facilities and conducted 527 investigations.

Also, as the investigators for the GA Board of Pharmacy, GDNA reviews and if necessary investigates, all applications submitted to the Board requesting a pharmacy facility license. In FY22 the Board issued 736 facility licenses for which GDNA did the reviews.

The State of Georgia, along with most other states, is in the middle of a long, entrenched fight against opioid abuse. GDNA is an agency directly involved in this fight by ensuring Pharmacy Board registrants and other healthcare entities adhere to the laws, rules, and regulations relating to the appropriate dispensing and distributing of opioid prescription medication. Along with the Pharmacy Board, GDNA is proud to be of service to the citizens of Georgia.

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 Special Agent positions in Central and Southwest Georgia. If you live in or around the Central or 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 Required Notifications to the Board and the requirements set forth. Please visit Board Rule 480-10-.20 (2) for more information

- (2) The following occurrences require immediate notification to the Board at its address of record, unless otherwise provided:
- (a) Permanent closing of a licensed pharmacy. Notification shall include the name and contact information for the person responsible for maintaining the pharmacy records after the pharmacy has closed and location of the records.
 - (b) Change of ownership or location of a licensed pharmacy. Since a pharmacy license cannot be transferable, unless such change has been previously approved by the Board following the submission of the appropriate applications, the existing pharmacy license is void and there is no continuing authority to operate as a pharmacy.
 - (c) Change in management of a licensed pharmacy.
 - (d) Change of the pharmacist in charge of a licensed pharmacy. When the Board receives notice that a pharmacy no longer has a pharmacist in charge and no replacement pharmacist in charge is named, the pharmacy's license is suspended pending further action by the Board.
 - (e) Any theft or loss of drugs or devices of a licensed pharmacy. This notification must also be made to the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency, and if involving controlled substances, the pharmacy must comply with Rule 480-16-.06.
 - (f) Any known conviction of any employee of a licensed pharmacy of any state or federal drug laws, not previously reported.
 - (g) Disasters or accidents involving the licensed pharmacy.
 - (h) Thefts or break-ins at the licensed pharmacy.
 - (i) Theft, destruction, or loss of records of a licensed pharmacy required to be maintained by state or federal law.

(j) Occurrence at a licensed pharmacy of a significant adverse drug reaction by a customer or person receiving medication dispensed or compounded by the licensed pharmacy.

GENERAL UPDATES

Now more than ever before, pharmacists are called upon multiple times per day to administer a wide variety of immunizations. Whether the need is for flu, covid boosters or everyday vaccines such as pneumococcal, MMR or HPV the options seem endless. With so many products on the market it can become quite confusing at times especially since several have very similar labeling. The point of this story is just a reminder to focus on accuracy and to pay close attention to dosing. Also remember to incorporate GRITS into your routine prior to administration. Follow best practices to avoid needle sticks and use proper disposal methods of all syringes after the fact. It's going to be a very busy immunization season so thank you in advance for ensuring the health and safety of your patients.

Upcoming Board Meeting:

Date: October 12th

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: 2 Peachtree St, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303

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

Contact

M: 2 Peachtree St, NW 6th Floor

Atlanta, GA 30303

P: 404-651-8000

F: 470-386-6137