

GEORGIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
Emergency Conference Call
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 6th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
September 8, 2017
1:00 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

Chris Jones, President
Bob Warnock, Vice-President
Vicki Arnold
Jim Bracewell
Mike Faulk
Lisa Harris
Bill Prather

Staff present:

Tanja Battle, Executive Director
Dennis Troughton, Director, GDNA
Janet Wray, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Max Changus, Assistant Attorney General
Kimberly Emm, Attorney
Brandi Howell, Business Support Analyst I

Open Session

President Jones established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

President Jones stated that the purpose of the emergency conference call was so that the Board could discuss its public emergencies policy before the weekend due to the arrival of Hurricane Irma. Ms. Wray stated the policy as it stands was intended to adopt for the affected areas. It is consistent with emergency powers the Board has. She stated the policy is good as it covers temporary provision of services and also covers the licensure of the pharmacists coming in. Ms. Wray stated that perhaps maybe a statement of clarification is what the Board needs to do now to deal with this emergency.

The statement of clarification reads as follows:

***STATEMENT OF INTERPRETATION RELATING TO EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTION
REFILLS FOR EVACUEES DUE TO HURRICANE IRMA***

Policy #14 of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy ("Board") provides for the refills of certain medication for up to 30 days for persons in the areas covered by a State of Emergency declared by the Governor of the State of Georgia. This policy is consistent with O.C.G.A. Section 26-4-80(j) and the Governor's Emergency Declaration. The Board is clarifying that persons who are evacuated from those emergency areas may also receive a 30-day refill of medication by a Georgia pharmacy or pharmacist without risk of disciplinary action by the Board so long as:

- *The refill is not for a controlled substance;*
- *In the pharmacist's professional judgment, the prescription drug is essential to the maintenance of the patient's life or to the continuation of therapy;*
- *The pharmacist makes a good faith effort to reduce the information to a form that may be maintained for the time required by law or rule, indicates it is an "emergency refill prescription," and maintains the record as required by state and federal law and as required by state and federal disaster agencies for consideration for possible reimbursement programs implemented to ensure continued provision of care during a disaster or emergency;*

- *The pharmacist informs the patient or the patient’s agent at the time of dispensing that the prescription drug is being provided without the practitioner’s authorization and that authorization of the practitioner is required for future refills; and*

As emergency conditions permit, the pharmacist notifies the practitioner that the refill occurred.

Jim Bracewell made a motion to adopt the statement of clarification. Lisa Harris seconded. Discussion was held in regards to posting the statement on the Board, GDNA, GPhA, and GPHP websites immediately. With no further discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

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- *In the pharmacist’s professional judgment, the prescription drug is essential to the maintenance of the patient’s life or to the continuation of therapy;*
- *The pharmacist makes a good faith effort to reduce the information to a form that may be maintained for the time required by law or rule, indicates it is an “emergency refill prescription,” and maintains the record as required by state and federal law and as required by state and federal disaster agencies for consideration for possible reimbursement programs implemented to ensure continued provision of care during a disaster or emergency;*
- *The pharmacist informs the patient or the patient’s agent at the time of dispensing that the prescription drug is being provided without the practitioner’s authorization and that authorization of the practitioner is required for future refills; and*

As emergency conditions permit, the pharmacist notifies the practitioner that the refill occurred.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Community Health’s office located at 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 5th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Minutes recorded by Brandi Howell, Business Support Analyst I
Minutes edited by Tanja D. Battle, Executive Director