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South Carolina Board of Pharmacy news

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SC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, & REGULATION
BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Board Elects New Officers

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation – Board of Pharmacy!

Rob Hubbard, RPh, was elected to serve as chair. Mr Hubbard was appointed in 2011 to represent the Third Congressional District and was reappointed for a second term in 2016. He has been practicing pharmacy for more than 50 years. He was co-owner of Hubbard/Young Pharmacy in Clemson, SC, where he continues to practice as a staff pharmacist and consultant pharmacist. He resides in Clemson with his wife, Claudia.

Lauren Thomas, PharmD, RPh, representative for the First Congressional District, was elected to serve as vice chair. She currently practices in the retail and consulting settings and serves as co-chair of the technician and compounding committees.

Mr Hubbard and Dr Thomas will both serve a one-year term that will end on June 30, 2022.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Addison Livingston, PharmD, RPh, for his time and dedication in serving as chair for the previous year, in addition to his dedication to the citizens of South Carolina over the last 12 years.

Congratulations to New Board Member

On Tuesday, May 11, 2021, the Senate confirmed **Mary Douglass Smith, PharmD, RPh**, as the newest member to serve on the Board. She will represent the Second Congressional District; her term began on July 1, 2021.

Dr Smith is the director of experiential education and assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy. In this role, she oversees the introductory pharmacy practice experiences and preceptor development. She also teaches a variety of courses, including Therapeutics of Self-Care, Practice Integrated Lab Sequences

(community lab and nonsterile compounding lab), and independent studies and electives (advanced compounding and APPE readiness). Her research interests are in the scholarship of teaching and learning, and she serves on the editorial board of the pharmacy education journal *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*. Prior to her current position, Dr Smith worked as pharmacist-in-charge at Rite Aid Pharmacy in West Columbia, SC. She still practices pharmacy on an as-needed basis for Morgan's Pharmacy in Gilbert, SC, and Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center in Columbia, SC.

Dr Smith lives in Chapin, SC, with her husband, Stan Smith, and three daughters, Mimi (nine), Penny (six), and Elise (four). She is a member of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia and enjoys time at the lake and beach and reading a good crime novel.

Welcome, Dr Smith!

Legislative Updates

The following bills were enacted by the General Assembly during the 2021 legislative session and may impact the Board and/or its licensees:

S427/Act 48: Patients of a renal dialysis facility, and CE for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians

The act amends Section **40-43-75** of the Pharmacy Practice Act to allow a renal drug manufacturer to deliver a legend dialysate drug comprised of dextrose or icodextrin or a device to a patient of a renal dialysis facility, under established circumstances. The act also amends Section **40-43-130** to exempt pharmacists and pharmacy technicians from in-person continuing education (CE) attendance.

Effective Date: May 17, 2021

S571/Act 22: Prescribers to offer a prescription for naloxone hydrochloride and provide overdose education

The act adds Section **44-53-361** to require a prescriber to offer a prescription for naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by Food and Drug Administration for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression to a patient if (a) the prescription is 50 or more morphine milligram equivalents of an opioid medication per day; (b) the opioid is prescribed concurrently with a prescription for benzodiazepine; or (c) the patient presents with certain increased risk for overdose. The act also requires a prescriber to offer the same patient, or the parent/guardian of a minor patient, overdose education. A prescriber who fails to comply with these requirements may be subject to discipline by the appropriate licensing board.

Effective Date: July 25, 2021

H3179/Act 23: Exempts surgically implanted drug delivery system from 31-day supply limit

The act amends Section 44-53-360(e) to exempt surgically implanted drug delivery systems from the 31-day supply limit for Schedule II controlled substances (CS).

Effective Date: April 25, 2021

S147/R39: COVID-19 liability protections

The joint resolution enacts the South Carolina COVID-19 Liability Safe Harbor Act, providing protection from liability for health care providers and businesses that reasonably adhere to public health guidance during the public health emergency. The joint resolution provisions apply to all civil and administrative causes of action that arise between March 13, 2020, and June 30, 2021, or 180 days after the final state of emergency is lifted for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in this state, whichever is later, and that are based upon facts that occurred during this time period. The joint resolution does not apply to actions or remedies under the South Carolina Workers' Compensation law.

Effective Date: April 28, 2021

Disclaimer: This legislative update is not intended as legal advice. The Board is providing this legislative update to notify licensees of recently enacted legislation that may impact their practice area or license. This legislative update provides only a high-level overview of enacted legislation, and licensees are urged to review the entire enacted legislation, which is available through the hyperlinks above.

Updates on CE Requirements

On Thursday, May 13, 2021, Governor Henry McMaster signed into law Bill 427, which, among other things, removed the requirement for live CE hours for South Carolina-licensed pharmacists and registered technicians. This bill was effective immediately upon the signature of the governor.

What Does This Mean for You?

Pharmacists must still complete 15 CE hours per license year. **The license year runs from May 1 to April 30.**

Each license year, a pharmacist must complete:

- Fifteen hours of Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited continuing pharmacy education or continuing medical education (CME) Category 1 CE
- At least 50% of the total must be in drug therapy or patient management

- At least one hour related to approved procedures for monitoring CS
- At least one hour related to immunization (if an immunizing pharmacist)

Pharmacy technicians shall complete 10 hours of ACPE-accredited or CME Category 1-approved CE each year. **The license year runs from July 1 to June 30.**

View the bill in its entirety by visiting https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/427.htm. Please forward any questions to contact.pharmacy@llr.sc.gov.

Review of Naloxone in South Carolina

The following article was reprinted with permission from [Naloxone Saves SC](#).

On June 3, 2015, the South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act was enacted, authorizing first responders, such as law enforcement, [firefighters], and EMS personnel, to carry naloxone and administer it to a person whom the first responder believed in good faith was experiencing an opioid overdose. Otherwise, naloxone could only be dispensed by a pharmacist pursuant to a written prescription or a standing order from a licensed prescriber.

South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act

A year later, on June 5, 2016, in an effort to further reduce opioid-related deaths, an amendment to the act, Bill H5193, became effective. This amendment allows a person at risk of experiencing an overdose or a caregiver for such a person to obtain naloxone from a pharmacy without a prescription.

The [Joint Protocol](#) issued by the [South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners] and [South Carolina Board of Pharmacy] broadly defines who is “at risk” of experiencing an opioid-related overdose to include the following:

- Current illicit users or non-medical opioid users or persons with a history of such use
- Persons with a history of opioid intoxication or overdose and/or emergency medical care for acute opioid poisoning
- Persons with an opioid prescription
- Persons from an opioid detoxification and mandatory abstinence program
- Persons entering methadone maintenance treatment programs (for addiction or pain)
- Persons who may have difficulty accessing emergency medical services

Naloxone saves lives by blocking the opioid's effects. Not only is naloxone safe, but it is also easy to use. The Joint Protocol permits a pharmacist to dispense naloxone as either a nasal spray, the preferred method, or in liquid form that can be injected into the shoulder or thigh.

Compliance Update: Notification to the Board

There are numerous situations when a licensee and/or permit holder is required to provide notification to the Board of certain actions. These notification forms can be found [here](#).

South Carolina Code of Laws Annotated §40-43-91. Reports to Board of Pharmacy regarding thefts, convictions, changes in ownership or pharmacy employment, disasters, and accidents; return of permit; penalty for failure to comply.

- (A) A permit holder shall report to the Board of Pharmacy **within thirty working days** of the discovery of the occurrence of:
 - (1) theft or loss of drugs or devices; or
 - (2) conviction of any employee of any state or federal drug law.
- (B) All permit holders shall report to the Board of Pharmacy **within ten working days** of the discovery of the occurrence of any of the following:
 - (1) permanent closing;
 - (2) change of ownership, management, location, consultant pharmacists, or pharmacist-in-charge of a pharmacy;
 - (3) change in employment of pharmacists or pharmacy technicians within a pharmacy permitted by the board;
 - (4) disasters, accidents, destruction, or loss of records required to be maintained by state or federal law.
- (C) Upon permanent closing a permittee shall return the permit to the board **within thirty days**.
- (D) The board may assess a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars upon any individual who fails to comply with the rules as provided in this section.
- (E) Any currently licensed pharmacist or pharmacy technician who changes his mailing address must notify the board in writing **within ten days** listing his name, license or registration number, and new mailing address.
- (F) When a licensed pharmacist in the employ of or in charge of the pharmacy duties of a permitted facility within this State leaves the employ of or ceases to have charge of the pharmacy duties of the permitted facility, he shall notify the board in writing **within ten days of the change**, giving the name and address of the permitted facility at which he was last employed. When a licensed pharmacist or registered pharmacy technician within this State makes any change in employment from one permitted facility to another, he shall notify the board of

the change **within ten days**, listing the name and address of the permitted facility at which he was last employed and of the facility to which he expects to move. (emphasis added)

About the Newsletter

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation – Board of Pharmacy *Newsletter* is an official method of notification to pharmacies, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians registered by the Board. Please read carefully. The Board encourages you to keep them for future reference. The Board also encourages you to follow its Facebook page @scbop and Twitter page @scdllr.

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Traci Collier, PharmD, Administrator - State News Editor

Lemrey "Al" Carter, PharmD, MS, RPh - National News Editor & Executive Editor

Amy Sanchez - Publications and Editorial Manager

Kingtree Bldg, 110 Centerview Dr | PO Box 11927 | Columbia, SC 29211-1927 | www.llr.sc.gov/bop | 803/896-4700
