

February 2002



Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy

Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

101 E Capitol, Suite 218, Little Rock, AR 72201
Tel: 501/682-0190 Fax: 501/682-0195

The Arkansas Pharmacy Support Group and Its Functions

This group is made up of pharmacists who are recovering from addiction illness; are now living a healthy, normal, and productive life; and are willing to help others. We represent a wide range of problems from alcoholism; to the abuse of various legal drugs or narcotics; to the use of illegal drugs. The support group has three primary functions:

1. To serve as a support group for each other and to promote the importance of continuing awareness of the dangers of complacency and relapse;
2. To be available for those who have a problem and help with answers or with decisions about a course of action; and
3. To promote a better understanding of addiction and the recovery process among this group, the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, and the pharmacy profession by being available for meetings or seminars pertaining to addiction or by sharing our personal experience.

What Kind of Illness is Addiction?

Definition: Addiction to alcohol or other drugs is an illness characterized by problems that are directly associated with persistent and excessive use of alcohol and/or drugs, along with problems in living and dealing with others in general. These problems include physical, psychological, and social dysfunction. Addiction is a disease that always gets worse, ultimately ending in recovery or death. Recovery requires a programmed approach and the support of others. The power of choice is gone. He/she cannot stop. Untreated it is a chronic, progressive, and terminal disease.

The Primary Problem: Addiction is a disease in and of itself. Although it often is present along with other primary illnesses or problems, it cannot be treated as merely a symptom of another deep-seated problem. Although addicts may recover, they will always be susceptible to relapse. Entering into a lifetime recovery is the only means of successful sobriety.

A Progressive Problem: Untreated, the disease always gets worse, never better. **Spontaneous remissions do not occur.** As it progresses, the victim becomes preoccupied with using drugs, drinking, or both and begins to orient and organize his/her whole life around the use.

A Terminal Problem: If the addiction is not interrupted, it will bring physical, psychological, and social problems **and will lead to death!**

The Cage Questionnaire

- C – “Have you ever felt a need to **cut down** on your drinking or drug use?”
- A – “Have you ever been **annoyed** at criticism of your drinking or drug use?”
- G – “Have you ever felt **guilty** about something you have done when you have been drinking or high from drugs?”
- E – “Have you ever had a morning **eye-opener**, taken alcohol or drugs to get going, or treated withdrawal symptoms?”

If you had only one positive response to the above questionnaire you should be concerned. If you had two positive responses, more than likely you have a problem!

What We Can Do to Help

Members of the Arkansas Pharmacy Support Group are recovering addicts who have been through the hiding, the denial, the rationalization, and, fortunately, entered into recovery. Our problem, if we are to continue our profession, requires us to return to an environment surrounded by the drugs we are addicted to; and, in many cases, dispense and handle the very substances that caused our problem in the beginning. We meet monthly and discuss how we are dealing with this, and how we are handling other problems in our lives. We learn from these meetings that we are not alone and that we can share our strength, experience, and hope with others.

We want to be available for those in our profession who need help. We will do our best to answer any questions pertaining to your problem or to what we are doing to live in sobriety. If you choose to seek help, we will be available to guide you in a recovery process that will give you the same opportunities we had. Remember: if you think you have a problem, you are probably correct. Without help it will always get worse. **Never better!**

Let Us Help

If you or someone you know has a problem, let us help. Call the Arkansas Pharmacy Support Group Helpline at 870/636-0923 and leave a message. Someone will call you back within 24 hours to identify the next steps. If you feel the situ-

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 1

ation requires immediate assistance, please call the State Board at 870/682-0190 and ask for the number of a member of the Support Group. A member will assist you in making immediate contact. This number and assistance is available to pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, or other pharmacy professionals. You do not have to identify yourself. We have information available that will help you to make some decisions. We will answer questions, and let you decide if you want our help.

If you feel that you want to talk to one of us in person, a meeting can be arranged. We will answer any questions that we can. The choices are all yours now. Do not wait until someone else has control of your choices, and the consequences of your actions.

DEA Registration and Order Form Mail Delays Update

Mail deliveries to the Washington, DC, address of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of Diversion Control, and Registration Unit, have been temporarily stopped.

New applicants should **not** mail the application form to the post office address in Washington, DC, that is listed on the application. The application should be mailed or delivered to the local DEA office. Since the local DEA can accept payment by credit card, the applicant may have to present the application to the local DEA office. The DEA official can process the application from the local office to DEA Headquarters by fax. Renewal applications with a return address of Atlanta, Ga, should be mailed as usual. These applications are for practitioners, mid-level practitioners, retail pharmacies, hospital/clinics, and teaching institutions. Renewal applications with a return address of Washington, DC, should follow the instructions for new applicants stated above.

If you experience a delay in receiving order forms, contact your local DEA office at 501/324-5981 or the registration call center at 1-800/882-9539 to verify that your request was processed.

The Pharmacist's Corresponding Responsibility for Controlled Substance Prescriptions

Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1306.04 provides, in part, that:

A prescription for a controlled substance to be effective must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, **but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription. The person knowingly filling a prescription issued not in the usual course of professional treatment, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of the provisions of law relating to controlled substances.** The law does not require a pharmacist to dispense a prescription of doubtful, questionable, or suspicious origin. On the contrary, the pharmacist who deliberately looks the other way when there is reason to believe that the purported prescription had not been issued for a legitimate medical purpose, may be prosecuted along with the issuing practitioner, for knowingly and intentionally distributing controlled substances,

DEA Makes Numerous Applications Available Online

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently made many of its most popular applications and forms available on its Internet Web site. The forms include DEA Form 106 (Loss or Theft of a Controlled Substance), DEA Form 41 (Record of Drugs Surrendered), and many others. They can be viewed, downloaded, or filled out online at www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/hot/index.html.

Page 4 - February 2002

The *Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy News* is published by the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation, Inc, to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of the Foundation or the Board unless expressly so stated.

Charles S. Campbell, PD - State News Editor
Carmen A. Catizone, MS, RPh - National News Editor
& Executive Editor
Courtney M. Karzen - Editorial Manager

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chicago, Illinois
Permit No. 5744

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation, Inc.
700 Busse Highway
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068