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Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy

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Board Inspector Buddy Bowden Retires

Buddy Bowden, PD, retired from his position as Board inspector on March 15, 2002. Dr Bowden has been an inspector with the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy for six years and has provided the Board with a wealth of experience based on his previous practice in both retail and hospital environments. He served both the public and pharmacists well and will be greatly missed as a member of the Board staff.

Board Assistant Director/Fiscal Officer Sheila Castin Retires June 30, 2002

Sheila Castin, CPM, will retire from her position as assistant director/fiscal officer of the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy on June 30, 2002. Ms Castin has been employed by the Board for 25 years and with the State of Arkansas for 35 years. She has served as interim executive director and is unquestionably the most knowledgeable person regarding Board of Pharmacy policies, procedures, duties, and responsibilities in our office. Her contributions to the profession of pharmacy and the protection of public health are immense. Ms Castin will be sorely missed by the Board and staff.

Arkansas Pharmacy Support Group Helpline

870/636-0923

This number and assistance regarding issues related to substance abuse are available to pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, or other pharmacy professionals.

Methadone Clinic Specialty Pharmacy

During the last legislative session, the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy was granted the statutory authority to issue specialty pharmacy permits to facilities that provide unique aspects of pharmaceutical care to an identified pa-

tient population. The intent of this legislation was to enable the Board to define by regulation, operational requirements for pharmacies that were not traditional retail or hospital-permitted facilities, but in the absence of any other available permit were required to operate as such.

The first specialty pharmacy permit defined by regulation and issued by the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy was the Methadone Clinic Pharmacy. Specific requirements for this permit may be viewed on the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy Web site under Regulation 04-03-0002. It is anticipated that other specialty pharmacy permits will be designed for distinct types of pharmacy practice in the near future.

Surrender of Unwanted Controlled Substances

All controlled substances, no longer usable because of deterioration or expiration date or that are unwanted, shall be delivered in person or by registered mail or other means of shipment, with return receipt to the Arkansas Department of Health, Division of Pharmacy Services and Drug Control, in Little Rock, Ark. An authorized agent of the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy or the Arkansas Department of Health may also destroy controlled substances on-site.

Pursuant to a recent regulation promulgated by the Arkansas Department of Health, each controlled substance item submitted for destruction by hospitals, long-term care facilities, or related facilities shall be submitted **at least quarterly**. In addition, discontinued or unwanted controlled substances must be submitted each time there is a **change in the licensed person responsible** for the controlled substances at the facility. There is no change in that discontinued or unwanted controlled substances must be identified in such a manner as to determine the exact location in the facility where it was last recorded in the accountability record to determine what person or persons had access

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to or administered such controlled substances during the time it was in the controlled substance inventory in the facility.

Prescriber Identity Must be Accurate

It has repeatedly come to the Board's attention that some prescriptions being filled at pharmacies are not being attributed to the physician who wrote the prescription. Some prescriptions, especially those being written on a hospital prescription pad, are being filled with the institution listed where the physician's name should appear. Also, in the situation where a mid-level practitioner, such as an advanced practice nurse, signs a prescription, the name of the physician that the mid-level practitioner is working under is appearing in the prescription record instead of who actually signed the prescription. A recent investigation revealed new prescriptions attributed to a prescriber deceased for several years. **In all cases, the prescription label and record must show the name of the prescriber who actually signed the prescription.** This is especially critical for controlled drug or narcotic prescriptions, which could involve drug diversion investigation by the Board, Drug Enforcement Administration, or Arkansas Department of Health at some time after they are filled. Please avoid Board action by placing the authentic prescriber's name on the prescription label.

Retail Pharmacies' License Numbers are Changing

Over the years, there has been considerable confusion regarding the difference between the Arkansas Permit Number for a retail pharmacy versus the number issued by the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP).

For many years, the Board of Pharmacy had a working agreement with NCPDP. We used their numbering system

as our permit number. We were requested to do so by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy®. However, Arkansas law requires that the permit number be changed when there is a change of ownership. This has caused problems because of the third-party contracts that were associated with NCPDP. Therefore, about four years ago, the Board severed its relationship with NCPDP and began issuing its own numbers. Unfortunately, the numbers looked the same and there was more confusion.

The Board of Pharmacy decided, at the February meeting, to change our numbering system. Beginning April 1, 2002, the first two digits of all retail pharmacy permits in Arkansas are "AR" rather than "04." **Please mark out the "04" on your permit and replace it with an "AR."**

We have contacted the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and have sent a letter to them notifying them of the change. The DEA has assured this agency that the change will not affect DEA permits in anyway. We believe that this change will be of benefit to the pharmacies in Arkansas.

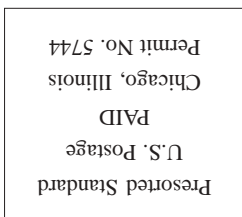
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