



# Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy

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## Drug Information Announcement

The Arkansas Poison and Drug Information Center has been reorganized into two separate centers: the Arkansas Poison Control Center and the Arkansas Drug Information Center.

The Drug Information Center's new toll-free health care professional phone number is 1-888/228-1233. The hours of operation are 8:30 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday. The Drug Information Center is staffed by **J.D. Gannaway, PharmD** (Director), **Mark Estes, PharmD**, and senior drug information rotation students.

During the hours the Drug Information Center is closed, the Arkansas Poison Control Center will answer emergency drug information questions. Non-emergency drug information questions will be passed on to the Drug Information Center on the following day of operation.

## Tablet and Capsule Identification

The Arkansas Drug Information Center and the Arkansas Poison Control Center will only perform tablet and capsule identifications for health care professionals and members of law enforcement agencies, not the general public.

The important numbers include:

- Arkansas Poison Control Center ..... 1-800/376-4766
- Arkansas Drug Information Center ..... 1-888/228-1233

## Disciplinary Actions

During the June 8-9, 2000 meeting, the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy imposed the following disciplinary actions regarding licensees/permittees:

- Two (2) pharmacists-in-charge were found to have allowed a pharmacy technician to perform pharmacy technician duties with an expired technician license. Action – In each case the pharmacy was fined \$1,000, the pharmacist-in-charge \$500, and the technician was placed on probation for one (1) year.
- Three (3) medical gas/durable medical equipment permit holders were found to have continued to do business after their respective permits had expired. Action – In each case the permit holder was fined \$1,000.
- Six (6) nursing homes were found to have continued to operate without a permit after failing to renew a permit. Action – In each case the permit holder was fined \$500.
- One (1) pharmacist-in-charge was found to have failed to remove outdated drugs from the shelves or otherwise segregate the out-of-date drugs from normal inventory and to have failed to

keep the pharmacy clean and orderly despite repeated warnings. Action – The pharmacist-in-charge was fined \$2,500 and placed on probation for three (3) years.

One (1) pharmacy technician was found to have taken legend, non-controlled drugs from inventory without authorization from a practitioner. Action – The pharmacy technician's license was revoked.

One (1) pharmacy technician was found to have disclosed confidential information acquired in the capacity of performing technician duties. Action – The pharmacy technician was placed on probation for one year.

## Live Continuing Education

It has been brought to the attention of Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy staff that the required live continuing education (CE) hour regulation needs to be clarified.

Regulation 02-06-0003, B, 2 states:

A minimum of nine (9) of the fifteen (15) CE hours must be live contact hours as defined by the committee. A minimum of six (6) of the nine (9) live contact hours must be concerning drug therapy or patient management.

There apparently has been a misconception that only American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) L01 coded programs meet the Drug Therapy/Patient Management criteria. Numbering codes following ACPE live program designation (L) include: 01 – Drug Therapy; 02 – AIDS Related Therapy; 03 – Law Topics; and 04 – General Topics. All L01 designated programs meet the aforementioned criteria; in addition, L02 designated programs and L04 designated programs that are related to drug therapy or patient management also meet the criteria. If there are questions regarding specific L02 or L04 programs, please call the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy office.

## Percocet Prescriptions

Percocet, a drug from Endo, has new strengths that may be creating problems for patients. We have received several different opinions from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on how this problem should be handled. After reviewing these opinions, we feel the appropriate way to handle a Percocet prescription with no strength is as follows.

Because federal and state laws allow correction of mistakes on prescriptions, it is acceptable to add the strength to the prescription after contacting the prescriber. The pharmacist should docu-

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ment his or her findings on the prescription, date, and sign the correction.

Below is a quick review of DEA policy on changes to Schedule II prescriptions.

A pharmacist must contact the prescriber to make changes. After consultation, the pharmacist may change the patient's address, the drug's quantity, the directions for use, and the drug's strength. The pharmacist is **not** permitted, however, to change the patient's name, the medication (except for generic substitution – if permitted), or the prescriber's signature.

### **50-Year Gold Certificates Issued**

The Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy honored 38 pharmacists with Gold Certificates during the 2000 Arkansas Pharmacists Association Convention in Little Rock, Ark, for the honored distinction of having been licensed Arkansas pharmacists for 50 years. Congratulations to the following pharmacists.

- |                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Thomas H. Barnes, Jr</b>        | <b>James Hudson</b>           |
| <b>Erman Bennett</b>               | <b>William Jones</b>          |
| <b>Fred Blankenship</b>            | <b>Paul Mason</b>             |
| <b>James A. (Buddy) Bowden, Jr</b> | <b>Robert McCoy</b>           |
| <b>Kenneth Brodie</b>              | <b>Charles Oates</b>          |
| <b>Millan Burrow</b>               | <b>Dorothy Oliver</b>         |
| <b>Harles H. Carter, Jr</b>        | <b>David Ouellette</b>        |
| <b>Frank Cole</b>                  | <b>Sidney Don Phillips</b>    |
| <b>Richard Desalvo</b>             | <b>Charles Rector</b>         |
| <b>Brown Dodd</b>                  | <b>Willis Ricketts</b>        |
| <b>John Douglas</b>                | <b>Jesse Rowe</b>             |
| <b>Tillman Ethridge</b>            | <b>Walter Searcy</b>          |
| <b>J.K. Fancher, Jr</b>            | <b>Charlie C. Sefers, Jr</b>  |
| <b>Lee C. Foster, Jr</b>           | <b>Kermit Smith</b>           |
| <b>Jerry Graves</b>                | <b>Joe Smithson</b>           |
| <b>Robert Greene</b>               | <b>Ben M. Smoot, Jr</b>       |
| <b>John Honea</b>                  | <b>Robert Springer</b>        |
| <b>Robert Hudgens</b>              | <b>Robert W. Williams, Jr</b> |

### **Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances**

There has been an increase in theft and loss of controlled substances in hospitals. The thefts were able to occur, for the most part, due to a failure of policy or procedures being properly carried

out; reports that would indicate or show diversion were not being properly reviewed.

We must constantly review procedures to address these situations. Failure at any point during the drug distribution and administration procedure offers the possibility of diversion. The director of pharmacy and the pharmacist-in-charge are responsible for seeing that the policies to detect and prevent drug diversion are adequate and are being followed. It has become apparent that you cannot assume the policies are being followed, therefore, checks and balances must occur.

If you have suggestions to address this problem that we all share, or have questions please contact **Ron Ewing** at 501/682-0196 or the office at 501/682-0190.

### **USP Expiration Date Standard Changed**

The US Pharmacopeia (USP) has revised its expiration date standard for "Repackaging Into Single-Unit Containers and Unit-Dose Containers For Non-sterile Solid and Liquid Dosage Forms." This is commonly referred to as packaging into bingo-cards. The following wording has been removed from the standard:

In the absence of stability data or information to the contrary, such date should not exceed (1) 25% of the remaining time between the date of repackaging and the expiration date on the original manufacturer's bulk container, or (2) a six-month period from the date the drug is repackaged, whichever is earlier.

With the removal of this language, single-unit bingo cards and unit-dose containers may be labeled with an expiration date similar to any other product dispensed from the pharmacy. The expiration date shall not be later than (a) the expiration date on the manufacturer's container, or (b) one year from the date the drug is dispensed, whichever is earlier.

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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.

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