



SC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, & REGULATION

BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Twelve Years of Service on the Board of Pharmacy

By Rob Hubbard, RPh, Outgoing Board Chair

It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve my profession of pharmacy and the state of South Carolina these last 12 years. In 2010, when I was appointed to serve, I had no idea what this journey would look like. Looking back, I have seen many changes in how the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation – Board of Pharmacy operates. Board members used to meet one-on-one with reciprocity candidates in our respective districts. Thanks to an outstanding administrator and staff working together, we were able to simplify this task to a live virtual educational interview.

We added a dedicated pharmacist inspector for nonresident reviews, which has streamlined the process so that we are now able to handle the applications much more efficiently.

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has brought out the best in the pharmacists and technicians in our state and nation. We see pharmacists practicing at the top of their profession as evidenced by immunizations, collaborative practices, specialty areas, and direct patient care.

I have enjoyed serving and working alongside wonderful members of our Board as we have strived to fulfill our mission of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare. We are blessed to have multiple practice settings represented in the makeup of our Board. It helps to hear the different views and perspectives from each Board member as we study the matters that come before

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us. The end result is a thorough vetting of the matters in keeping with our charge to protect the public. There have been moments when we have had to make some hard decisions resulting in tears of sadness, and there have also been times that we have seen the results of a second chance bring tears of joy.

The profession of pharmacy is changing rapidly, and we need to be able to adapt as we move forward. As a student working in the hospital pharmacy at Medical University of South Carolina in the 1960s, I remember that we were in a small area in the basement of the hospital. Now we have pharmacists and pharmacy satellites throughout the hospital, and each is a specialized unit. We were introduced to working alongside physicians and now we are a vital part of the team involving direct patient care. We are involved with sterile and nuclear compounding and home infusion. We have come a long way since the '60s, and it is only getting better. We have the knowledge and the skills to practice at the highest level. I want to thank each of you with whom I currently serve and those I served with through the years. I have been blessed by your friendship and commitment to service for the people of South Carolina.

Renewal Notices for Registered and State-Certified Pharmacy Technicians Are Open!

If you validated your email address with the Board, you can complete the online renewal process. To access your renewal online, you will need your user ID and password. The email renewal notice contains a link that will allow you to reset your user ID and password. To make the process smoother for all, please make sure your correct email is on file with the Board. If you do not know your password, visit <https://eservice.llr.sc.gov/SSO/Login/LoginPage> to change it. To change your email address, send a request to contact.pharmacy@llr.sc.gov. Please allow 24 hours for updates.

If you choose not to renew online, you may request a paper renewal from the Board office and renew by mailing in the completed form and proper fees. Applications for renewal must be filed no later than June 30, 2022. Pharmacy technicians who do not renew **prior to** July 1, 2022, must immediately cease practice and refrain from performing any duties as a pharmacy technician. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action for both the technician and the pharmacist-in-charge (PIC).

If you are a state-certified pharmacy technician and your **national** certification has expired, you must also submit a copy of your current national certificate to the Board. Please remember that your national certification is different than your state pharmacy technician registration. Continuing to practice as a state-certified technician without the proper current documentation may result in disciplinary action for both the technician and the PIC.

NABP e-Profile ID

You must have a National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) e-Profile ID for CPE Monitor® to renew online. CPE Monitor is a service used to document and report your continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credits. You will be asked to provide your e-Profile ID number on the renewal form. To create an e-Profile ID, visit www.nabp.pharmacy. Click on “e-Profile Login” at the top right side of the page, then select “Individual or Business Customers” and create a login. For common questions about creating an e-Profile or internet browser requirements, visit the [Help section](#) of the NABP website.

Insufficient Staffing Form

At the request of the Workplace Conditions Task Force that was previously created by the Board, a section has been added to all in-state pharmacy inspections regarding workplace conditions. While the feedback from pharmacists to inspectors regarding workplace conditions has been overwhelmingly positive, the Board realizes that many pharmacy staff members may fear retaliation for speaking up. Based on this, the Board has developed an **Insufficient Staffing Report** form that can be completed and submitted to the Board office when insufficient staffing has created or is creating a negative impact on patient safety. When completing this form, please be as specific as possible regarding how patient safety was impacted for staff to better investigate the situation.

As a reminder, all Board investigations are complaint driven and must be based on potential violations of the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act.

The form can be found [here](#).

Legislative Updates

The 2022 session of the South Carolina General Assembly has been a very active one for pharmacy. While the Board does not introduce legislation, nor does the Board lobby for or against legislation, it is following several bills this year. Below is a list of bills that may impact the profession of pharmacy in this state:

- S 150 – Compassionate Care Act
- H 4867 – Narcotic Treatment Programs
- S 1034 – Central Fill Pharmacies
- S 628 – Pharmacy Access Act
- S 1198 – Overdose Prevention Act
- S 1190 – Controlled Substances

As this is the second year of a two-year session, any bill that does not become law this session will need to be reintroduced next year as a new bill.

PREP Act Reminder

The Board still receives numerous questions regarding what is and what is not allowed under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act). There are several available resources that outline what is allowed by pharmacists, interns, and technicians while the PREP Act is still active:

- [Authority to Immunize During COVID-19](#)
- [Overview of PREP Act](#)

As a reminder, both the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act and the PREP Act limit technician supervision to licensed pharmacists. This is the same for all technician duties, not just immunizations.

Maintain Up-to-Date Information With the Board

Please be diligent in keeping your information up to date and, if possible, remind your coworkers to do the same. State law requires all pharmacists, technicians, and interns to notify the Board in writing within 10 days of a change of address, employment, consultant, or PIC status. Forms are available on the Board website.

In addition, to ensure that you receive all communications, please make sure your email is up to date and that you have subscribed to the Board's quarterly *Newsletter*.

Special Notice About the Newsletter

The Board's quarterly *Newsletter* is an official method of notification to pharmacies, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians licensed or registered by the Board. Please read the newsletters carefully. The Board encourages you to keep the newsletters for future reference.

The South Carolina Board of Pharmacy News is published by the South Carolina Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation® (NABPF®) to promote 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 NABPF or the Board unless expressly so stated.

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