



LOUISIANA BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Governor Edwards Names Five Appointments to Board of Pharmacy (22-10-717)

Governor John Bel Edwards has named five appointments to the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy. In particular:

- For District 1 (1B), the governor reappointed Mr Richard M. Indovina, Jr, from River Ridge, LA, to a third six-year term, which will conclude on June 30, 2028. Mr Indovina is employed by Ochsner Health System as vice president for specialty and retail pharmacy services.
- For District 2 (2B), the governor reappointed Raymond J. Strong, PharmD, from New Orleans, LA, to a second six-year term, which will conclude on June 30, 2028. Dr Strong is the director of pharmacy operations at Ascension DePaul Services.
- For District 4 (4B), the governor appointed Ms Jennifer Elliott Dupree, from Bossier City, LA, to a six-year term, which will conclude on June 30, 2028. Ms Dupree is the market health and wellness director for Walmart in Shreveport, LA. She replaces Douglas E. Robichaux, who completed his term that began in 2016.
- For District 6 (6B), the governor reappointed Mr Richard Mannino, from Hammond, LA, to a second six-year term, which will conclude on June 30, 2028. Mr Mannino is the owner of Mannino's Family Practice Pharmacy in Hammond.
- For District 7 (7A), the governor appointed Ms Chris B. Melancon, from Carencro, LA, to a six-year term, which will conclude on June 30, 2028. Ms Melancon is a staff

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pharmacist and operations manager at Melancon Pharmacy in Carencro. She replaces Allen W. Cassidy, Jr, who completed his term that began in 2016.

The Board congratulates all the appointees, and extends its sincere appreciation to the two pharmacists completing their terms of service. They represented their profession well and consistently provided their expertise to the Board in its quest to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. The Board wishes them well in their future endeavors.

Renewal Time for Pharmacists and Pharmacies (22-10-718)

The renewal cycle for pharmacist licenses (PST), pharmacy permits (PHY), compounded sterile preparations permits (CSP-PHY), and controlled dangerous substance (CDS) licenses for pharmacies (CDS-PHY) will open on November 1, 2022. Just prior to that date you should receive a reminder notice from the Board office; the mailer will remind you of the three options you have to renew your credentials:

1. Visit the Board's [website](#) and renew your credential using the online services portal and a credit card for payment of the fee.
2. Visit the same website to download and print an application form. Then complete and mail the application form with the appropriate fee, using a check or money order, to the Board office.
3. Send a written request to the Board office with your name, credential number, and mailing address, requesting the Board to mail an application form to you.

Any address changes received at the Board office after October 15, 2022, will not be reflected on your renewal reminder. In the event the United States Postal Service fails to deliver your reminder mailer by November 15, 2022, then it becomes your responsibility to retrieve an application form on the Board's website or renew your credentials online.

The online renewal module on the Board's website is programmed to automatically activate at 12:01 AM on November 1, 2022. While the Board makes every effort to maintain the online convenience during the renewal cycle, the Board's internet service provider may experience weather-related or other unforeseen technical difficulties from time to time. Such service disruptions have already happened more than once during the many years the Board has been offering the online option, including the final day of the renewal cycle. You have 60 days to renew your credential, and it is your choice as to when you complete that duty. In the event that you choose to wait until the last day and the website is not available, then you will be responsible for the consequences of your failure to renew your credential in a timely manner. The Board does not waive the penalty fee in that situation. Why take a chance? Please do not wait until the last minute of the last day.

The online renewal process will begin with a question relative to the licensee's compliance with the continuing pharmacy education (CPE) requirements. The renewal process will then pause for an automated check of the applicant's records via CPE Monitor®. The time for receipt of the return message from CPE Monitor is anticipated to be less than one minute. Upon verification of compliance

with CPE requirements by CPE Monitor, the applicant will be permitted to complete the renewal process. In the event that compliance cannot be verified by CPE Monitor, the renewal process will be terminated, and the applicant will be invited to return to complete the renewal process when their records at CPE Monitor can substantiate their compliance with CPE requirements.

In the event that you elect or you are required to use paper application forms, the Board suggests that you submit your completed application forms and fees to the Board office no later than December 1, 2022 – especially if you require a renewed license on or before January 1, 2023. If it is important for you to know when your paper application forms are received at the Board office, the Board suggests that you use a mailing service with tracking options, eg, Postal Service, FedEx, DHL, or United Parcel Service. Because of the volume of mail received, the Board will not be able to respond to requests for delivery confirmation. Please do not forget to answer all the questions and sign and date the paper application form. If the forms are incomplete, or if there is no supporting documentation when required, then the Board may return your application form to you, resulting in a delay in the renewal of your credential. Applicants using a paper application form should be prepared to include a copy of their CPE Monitor transcript demonstrating compliance with the CPE requirements. If the minimum CPE requirements are not reflected, your application will be returned, unprocessed.

- Current pharmacist licenses expire at midnight on December 31, 2022. There is no “grace period,” and a pharmacist shall not practice with an expired license.
- The fee for the timely renewal of a pharmacist license is \$150. Unless opted out, the pharmacy education support (PES) fee of \$100 will be added to the total cost. The renewal of an expired license will incur a 50% penalty fee of \$75 for the first 30 days after the expiration date. If renewed more than 30 days after the expiration date, then a \$200 reinstatement fee will also be required in addition to the penalty fee.

Please remember the pharmacy permit, compounded sterile preparations permit, and CDS license for the pharmacy are all separate credentials and must be renewed on separate application forms when using paper applications and the online portal. You may write one check for one or more credentials, but the application forms are separate. In the event that you send multiple applications with one check and there is a problem with one of the applications, then all the applications covered by that check will be delayed until all the applications paid for with that check can be processed. If renewing online, those credentials have separate application forms and are available for access at the same time. All must be completed to renew all credentials. You may elect to renew and pay for them in separate transactions or, alternatively, you may place multiple applications on the same invoice prior to electronic payment.

- To qualify for the renewal of a pharmacy permit, the Board requires evidence of a recent satisfactory inspection dated within the two-year period prior to the date of the renewal application. If the Board does not have that inspection report, you will not be able to renew the pharmacy permit until the updated inspection is received.

- Current pharmacy permits, compounded sterile preparations permits, and CDS licenses for pharmacies expire at midnight on December 31, 2022. There is no “grace period,” and a pharmacy shall not operate with an expired permit or CDS license. Further, in-state pharmacies may not provide compounded sterile preparations without an active compounded sterile preparations permit.
- The fee for the timely renewal of a pharmacy permit is \$225, which includes the \$25 prescription monitoring program (PMP) assessment. Unless opted out, the PES fee of \$100 will be added to the total cost. The renewal of an expired permit will incur a 50% penalty fee of \$100 for the first 30 days after the expiration date. If renewed more than 30 days after the expiration date, a \$200 reinstatement fee will be required in addition to the penalty fee.
- The fee for the timely renewal of a CDS license for a pharmacy is \$25. The renewal of an expired CDS license for a pharmacy will incur a 50% penalty fee of \$12.50 for the first 30 days after the expiration date. If renewed more than 30 days after the expiration date, then a \$200 reinstatement fee will also be required in addition to the penalty fee.
- The fee for the timely renewal of a compounded sterile preparations permit for a pharmacy is \$300. Failure to renew this credential will result in the pharmacy permit’s loss of sterile compounding authority.

As required by Act 298 of the 2015 Louisiana Legislature, the Board is required to assess the PES fee of \$100 on the renewal of every pharmacist license and pharmacy permit issued by the Board. The law also provides an option for the pharmacist and pharmacy to decline to pay the fee. You will notice the default position is for the fee to be included on your invoice; you must “opt out” if you wish to decline to pay the PES fee. If you forget to opt out and then pay the fee, the Board cannot issue a refund of the PES fee.

As a reminder, credentials are now virtual, meaning no paper form exists for the Board to mail to you. You can check the status of your license at any time on the Board’s website.

Multiple Declarations of Emergency Remain in Effect (22-10-719)

Governor Edwards issued his initial declarations of emergency for the severe weather associated with **Hurricane Laura** on August 21, 2020, **Hurricane Delta** on October 6, 2020, and **Hurricane Ida** on August 26, 2021; all have been renewed continuously and remain in effect at press time. The Board established web pages for each event on its website, accessible through the [State of Emergency link](#) under the Resources section at the top of the home page. The posted guidance documents and other resources include information on dispensing of emergency prescriptions, assessment of medication integrity in storm-damaged pharmacies, disposal of contaminated medical waste and hazardous waste, and reporting of theft or loss of controlled substances (CS).

Pharmacist Responsibility (22-10-720)

If you are the pharmacist-in-charge (PIC) of a pharmacy, it is your responsibility to ensure that all personnel you allow to perform professional functions in your pharmacy are properly credentialed with an active and current credential. If you are a staff pharmacist or a relief pharmacist, it is your responsibility to ensure that all personnel you allow to assist you in the pharmacy are properly credentialed with an active and current credential. Remember that you may verify the status of any credential on the Board's [website](#).

In the event that a compliance officer discovers anyone performing professional functions without the necessary credentials, all of the pharmacists who are present, as well as the PIC, will be identified in the resulting investigative report filed by the compliance officer. Further, in the event of a formal inquiry by the Board, all pharmacists identified will bear the risk of potential disciplinary action for aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of pharmacy.

Disciplinary and Other Licensure Actions (22-10-721)

During its August 17, 2022 meeting, the Board took action in the following matters:

Justin Anthony Brown (PST.022473): For his failure to disclose his July 2021 arrest on his license renewal application for year 2022 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$1,000 plus administrative costs.

Ross Joseph Brignac (CPT.010674): For his failure to disclose his March 2022 arrest on his renewal application for 2022-2023 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

ShaTerica Michelle Sessions (CPT.013326): For her failure to disclose a February 2022 action taken by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy on her renewal application for 2022-2023 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board suspended her certificate until February 11, 2025, in accordance with the period of probation imposed by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, suspended the suspension, and placed her certificate on probation for the period of suspension subject to conditions; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Jonnisha Marie Allen (CPT.015726): For her failure to disclose a November 2021 action taken by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy on her renewal application for 2022-2023 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board suspended her certificate until November 12, 2024, in accordance with the period of probation imposed by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, suspended the suspension, and placed her certificate on probation for the period of suspension subject to conditions; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Don's Pharmacy, LLC, dba Don's Pharmacy (Chalmette, LA) (CDS.048003): Pursuant to the surrender of the pharmacy's Drug Enforcement Administration registration, the Board accepted the voluntary

surrender of the credential, resulting in the active suspension of the state CS license for an indefinite period of time commencing on July 27, 2022.

Don Anthony Serpas (PST.013027): In lieu of immediate administrative action on a pending matter, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of the credential, resulting in the active suspension of the license for an indefinite period of time commencing on July 29, 2022.

Priscilla Lynn Hayes (CPT.010078): For her failure to disclose her June 2021 arrest on her renewal application for 2022-2023 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Harley Danielle Doucet (CPT.015914): For her failure to disclose her September 2021 citation for theft on her renewal application for 2022-2023 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Sameer Wadhwa (CPT.015701): For his failure to disclose his December 2021 arrest on his renewal application for 2022-2023 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Mariah Lorraine Brooks (CPT.015158): For her failure to disclose her February 2022 arrest on her renewal application for 2022-2023 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Jenaye Raquael Howard (CPT.014709): For her failure to disclose her August 2021 arrest on her renewal application for 2022-2023 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

DeliverIt Pharmacy Infusion Center, LLC, dba DeliverIt Pharmacy Infusion Center (Sugar Land, TX) (PHY.008092): For its failure to provide timely notice to the Board and designate a replacement PIC after the previous PIC vacated the position, the Board placed the permit on probation for one year upon reinstatement of the permit; and further, assessed administrative and investigative costs. Furthermore, failure to reinstate by January 1, 2023, shall result in the indefinite suspension of the permit.

Ochsner Pharmacy and Wellness, LLC, dba Ochsner Pharmacy and Wellness – Primary Care and Wellness (New Orleans) (PHY.006907): For its accountability for shortages of CS due to theft by a pharmacy technician, the Board assessed a fine of \$25,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Elisa Thong (PST.020783): For her accountability as PIC of a permit that allowed an unauthorized person to purchase and take possession of another patient's CS prescription, the Board issued a letter of warning; and further, assessed administrative and investigative costs.

Walmart Louisiana, LLC, dba Walmart Pharmacy No. 10-0541 (Covington, LA) (PHY.004778): For permitting a pharmacy technician candidate with an expired credential to practice from January 16, 2022, to February 12, 2022, the Board assessed a fine of \$1,000 plus administrative and investigative costs; and further, requires submission of a plan of action for a systems corporate safeguard to prevent a similar incident from occurring.

Kinesha Nicole Wall (PTC.028626): For practicing with an expired pharmacy technician candidate registration from January 16, 2022, to February 12, 2022, the Board issued a letter of warning; and further, assessed administrative costs.

Walmart Louisiana, LLC, dba Walmart Pharmacy No. 10-0961 (La Place, LA) (PHY.004792): For an incident in which staff allegedly mislabeled a prescription of progesterone 200 mg directing the patient to take the medication orally instead of vaginally as prescribed, the Board issued a letter of warning; and further, assessed a fine of \$1,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Walgreen Louisiana Co, Inc, dba Walgreen Pharmacy No. 11196 (Geismar, LA) (PHY.005895): For its accountability for multiple losses of CS and inability to ensure adequate prescription department security, the Board assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Walgreen Louisiana Co, Inc, dba Walgreen Pharmacy No. 15402 (Minden, LA) (PHY.006786): For its accountability for a loss of CS, an inability to ensure adequate prescription department security, and failure to perform a complete CDS inventory after discovering the loss, the Board assessed a fine of \$7,500 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Louisiana CVS Pharmacy, LLC, dba CVS Pharmacy No. 5326 (Shreveport) (PHY.005866): For its failure to designate a replacement PIC until 54 days after the previous PIC vacated that position, the Board assessed a fine of \$50,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Louisiana CVS Pharmacy, LLC, dba CVS Pharmacy No. 5285 (Lafayette, LA) (PHY.005797): For its failure to designate a replacement PIC until 79 days after the previous PIC vacated that position, the Board assessed a fine of \$15,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Vidrine Pharmaceutical Group, LLC, dba Boudreaux's New Drug Store (Lake Charles, LA) (PHY.008142): For its failure to comply with federal standards for the compounding of sterile preparations, the Board assessed a fine of \$25,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Kylee Brooke Vidrine (PST.021317): For her failure to comply with federal standards for the compounding of sterile preparations while serving as the PIC of Boudreaux's New Drug Store in Lake Charles, the Board issued a letter of warning, assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative costs; and further, requires completion of CriticalPoint's QP503 Certification Program subject to certain terms enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Marshall Alan Peterson (CPT.005480): In lieu of immediate administrative action on a pending matter, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of the credential, resulting in the active suspension of the certificate for an indefinite period of time commencing on June 9, 2022.

Wellness Pharmacy, LLC, dba Wellness Pharmacy (Baton Rouge, LA) (PHY.008090): For its accountability for dispensing 120 fraudulent CS prescriptions totaling 9,492 dosage units and for the audited loss of 21,252 dosage units of CS, as well as inconsistencies in record keeping and PMP reporting, the Board revoked the permit effective August 17, 2022.

Duy Tung Nguyen (PST.019806): For his accountability as owner and PIC for dispensing 120 fraudulent CS prescriptions totaling 9,492 dosage units and for the audited loss of 21,252 dosage units of CS, as well as inconsistencies in record keeping and PMP reporting, the Board suspended his pharmacist license indefinitely beginning on August 17, 2022, with a prohibition from applying for reinstatement until after August 17, 2024; and further, prohibited him from owning any pharmacy in Louisiana.

Kawanda Ann Degruy (CPT.015782): For her written admission to the theft of CS from her employer pharmacy, the Board revoked her credential; and further, prohibited her from applying or reapplying to practice or assist in the practice of pharmacy.

Leslie Marie Louviere (CPT.006245): In lieu of further administrative proceedings, the Board suspended her credential, suspended the period of suspension, and placed the certificate on probation for five years beginning on August 17, 2022, subject to certain terms enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Brent Van Landry (PST.017440): Board granted his request for modification of previous orders, then removed Article 2-f from his August 2021 Probation Board Order, which removed his restriction from supervising pharmacy technician candidates and interns, then reiterated all remaining terms in that Board order.

Jason Warren Dupeire (PST.018298): Board granted his request for reinstatement of the previously suspended license, converted the duration of the suspensive period to a term of 10 years beginning August 17, 2022, and stayed the execution of the suspension, then placed the license on probation for 10 years subject to certain terms enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Tiffany Annette Pitre (CPT.001615): Board granted her request for reinstatement of the previously suspended credential, converted the duration of the suspensive period to a term of five years, beginning August 17, 2022, and stayed the execution of the suspension, then placed the certificate on probation for five years subject to certain terms enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Anne Louise Robichaux (CPT.010312): Board granted request for reinstatement of the previously lapsed credential, suspended the certificate for two years, beginning August 17, 2022, suspended the suspension, and placed the certificate on probation for the period of suspension subject to certain terms enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Calendar Notes (22-10-722)

The Board office will be closed on:

- November 8, 2022, for General Election Day;
- November 11, 2022, for Veterans Day;
- November 24, 2022, for Thanksgiving Day;
- November 25, 2022, for Acadian Day (if declared);
- December 26, 2022, in observance of Christmas Day; and
- January 2, 2023, in observance of New Year's Day.

Special Note (22-10-723)

The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy Newsletter is considered an official method of notification to pharmacies, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician candidates credentialed by the Board. **These Newsletters will be used in administrative hearings as proof of notification.** Please read them carefully. Electronic copies dating back to 1998 are posted on the Board's website.

On a Personal Note (22-10-724)

By Joseph Fontenot

I am sincerely honored to have been selected by the Board as its new executive director. My service to the Board as executive director began on July 1, 2022.

I would like to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Malcolm J. Broussard, for his years of guidance, teaching, and steadfast dedication. From everyone at the Board, we wish you the best in your retirement.

Louisiana Lagniappe (22-10-725)

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value." – Albert Einstein

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