



SC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, & REGULATION

BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Pharmacist Renewals and CE

Pharmacist renewal notices for 2023-2024 were emailed in early February **if** you validated your email address with the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation – Board of Pharmacy. To access your renewal online, you will need your user ID and password. The email renewal will contain 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 choose not to renew online, you may request a paper renewal form from the Board office and renew by mailing the completed form and proper fees. If mailed, the Board must receive the application **before** April 1, 2023, including all required fees, data, and certification of acceptable continuing education (CE). If not postmarked **before** April 1, a penalty of \$50 must be assessed per state law. Please plan accordingly, as there are times when incorrect answers stop the process and cause the renewal to be late.

Renewal applications submitted between April 1 and April 30, 2023, must include the renewal fee plus the \$50 renewal penalty, in addition to evidence that the applicant meets the renewal requirements. If you do not renew by April 30, 2023, your license will be considered lapsed. You may be disciplined for unlicensed practice if you work in South Carolina with a lapsed license.

When renewing, you must attest that you have completed the annual requirement of 15 hours of CE. At least 50% of the total must be in drug therapy or patient management. At least one hour must be related to the approved procedures for monitoring the controlled substances listed in Schedules II, III, and IV as noted in Sections 44-53-210, 44-53-230,

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and 44-53-250 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. If you are a pharmacist who administers immunizations, you must complete at least one hour of Category 1 continuing medical education (CME) or Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited continuing pharmacy education related to the administration of vaccines as part of your annual licensure requirements. Please make sure your CE meets all the specific requirements outlined above **before** renewing your license. You may not renew until all CE requirements have been fulfilled.

As required by state law, a random CE audit of 10% of licensees will be conducted after renewals are processed. Please respond promptly if you are selected for the audit. Disciplinary action may be taken if you cannot provide documentation that all CE requirements were completed prior to renewal.

As a reminder, the license year runs from May 1 through April 30. All CE needs to have been obtained during the previous license year (May 1, 2022, through time of renewal) to be valid. If you are using excess carryover hours, a total of 30 hours must have been obtained between May 1, 2021, and the time of your renewal. It is the responsibility of the licensee to document which hours are used for each license year.

Please note, if this is your first renewal since receiving your license, you are exempt from the CE requirements.

Pharmacy Access Protocol

On May 23, 2022, Governor Henry McMaster signed into law Act 210. This act, in part, allows pharmacists to dispense a self-administered hormonal contraceptive or administer an injectable hormonal contraceptive to certain patients pursuant to a standing order by a prescriber. This act required the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Pharmacy to issue a written joint protocol. The finalized [joint protocol for the Pharmacy Access Act](#) can now be found on the Board website along with some frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Some key points from the protocol:

- Each pharmacy is responsible for obtaining its own provider partner in order to issue a standing order. There is not a blanket provider for all participating pharmacies to use.
- The self-screening questionnaire provided as part of the protocol is the questionnaire that should be utilized, not an adapted version.
- A separate license is not needed for a pharmacist to participate in this service as long as the pharmacist has met the training requirements. In addition, no Board notification is required prior to beginning this service. However, a facility permit is required for any storage and/or administration of a legend drug or device.
- For initial training, a pharmacist must have completed a certificate program that has been accredited by ACPE or a similar health authority or professional body approved

by the Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Medical Examiners. The program must be specific to self-administered hormonal contraceptives or injectable hormonal contraceptives and include the application of the United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use and other Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on contraception. An equivalent, curriculum-based training program completed in an accredited South Carolina pharmacy school satisfies the initial education requirement.

- Pharmacists participating in the protocol must complete one hour of CE related to hormonal contraceptives annually. As per statute, all CE must be ACPE accredited or CME 1.

For any additional questions you may have regarding the joint protocol for the Pharmacy Access Act, please reach out to the Board at contact.pharmacy@llr.sc.gov.

Bulk Verification Now Available

Bulk license verification service is now available for pharmacy licensees and employers. Bulk license verification is a paid service meant to aid employers and other organizations in managing large numbers of licenses. For a nominal fee, bulk verification will accept a list of pharmacy licensees and produce a report of each licensee's status and license expiration date. To learn more about bulk verification for your organization, visit <https://llr.sc.gov/bop/laws.aspx> and click on "Register."

FAQs

Are rubber-stamped prescriptions acceptable?

Per Policy 66, prescriptions received by a pharmacist from a patient must have an original signature or e-signature of a practitioner. Rubber-stamped signatures are not acceptable.

What activities can a clerk perform?

A clerk may perform tasks that are considered to be clerical, such as running the register and entering demographic data into the computer. In order to handle stock medication, such as putting away an order or returning medications to the shelf, an individual must be registered with the Board.

Can a technician work remotely?

In South Carolina, a technician may not work remotely. Technicians must work in a permitted facility and must be under direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist. While pharmacists do have the ability to perform certain pharmacy services remotely, supervising an intern or a technician is not one of those abilities.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Board meetings are held five times per year and are open to the public, with the exception of some hearings or discussions that may contain Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (of 1996) or corporate proprietary information. The Board now livestreams meetings on [YouTube](#), allowing for widespread viewing.

The Board meetings for 2023 are as follows:

- March 15
- June 14-15
- September 6-7
- November 15-16

Board meeting agendas will be posted on the Board [website](#) at least 24 hours in advance of each meeting.

Updated Information

Please be diligent in keeping your information up to date, and, if possible, remind your coworkers and employees 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 pharmacist-in-charge 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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