



WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Update on West Virginia Legislative Session

The West Virginia Legislative Session was a busy one, and there are a few updates to bring you at this time, while we wait to see what bills are signed and become law. Below you will find timely updates regarding the collaborative pharmacy practice process. This process update has been a long time coming and is a result of legislation passed last year. Additionally, the federal coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) state of emergency is scheduled to end on May 11, 2023, and there is a summary provided of what this means for you and your pharmacy.

New Process for Entering a CPA

As of March 1, 2023, a new process is live for entering a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement (CPA) on the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy website. The requirements for eligibility to enter a CPA for a pharmacist, as well as a new process to submit required information, are available at wvbop.com. The steps to submit a CPA application and payment of fees will be completed online.

Steps to enter a CPA:

Visit wvbop.com. Navigate to “Practitioners” and then “Pharmacists.” Select “Collaborative Pharmacy Practice.” Here you will find the steps and requirements to enter into a CPA.

The first step is for the Board to determine eligibility. The eligibility requirements are described in §11-8-3. Requirements for

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Collaborative Pharmacy Practice. Once you have gathered documentation of these requirements, then click on “Begin Collaborative Pharmacy Practice Application” at the bottom of the screen and sign in to begin the application. The request form is accompanied by a \$50 fee and must be accompanied by the satisfactory documentation. The Board will verify a pharmacist’s eligibility and send the applying pharmacist a confirmation letter. Pharmacists will need to **keep** this letter on file, as it will be used later in the process.

After receipt of the confirmation letter, the pharmacist can complete the collaborative practice notification form with the physician(s). The CPA needs to be completed and ready to be implemented on site. Click on “Begin Collaborative Pharmacy Practice Notification” located at the bottom of the “Collaborative Pharmacy Practice” page. This form is submitted online to the Board and is accompanied by a \$50 fee. The practice notification form is submitted **with** the confirmation letter. When the Board receives and verifies the completed practice notification, the CPA is in effect and is valid until the agreement is terminated. It is not subject to renewal or renewal fees.

Federal State of Emergency Ending May 11: What It Means for Pharmacists

The fight against COVID-19 appears to be nearing an end as the federal state of emergency is set to expire on May 11, 2023. Now what does this mean for pharmacists? This article is set to answer some questions as the end of the state of emergency draws near. More information about the ending of the state of emergency can be found at the United States Department of Health and Human Services [website](#).

Access to COVID-19 vaccines and certain treatments, such as Paxlovid™ and Lagevrio™, will not be affected. Many patients will continue to pay nothing out of pocket for the COVID-19 vaccine. Most private insurance plans treat vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as a preventive health service, and they will be fully covered without a co-pay. Currently, COVID-19 vaccines are covered under Medicare Part B without cost sharing, and this will continue. Medicaid will continue to cover all COVID-19 vaccines without a co-pay or cost sharing through September 30, 2024, and will cover ACIP-recommended vaccines for most beneficiaries thereafter. Out-of-pocket expenses for certain treatments may change, depending on an individual’s health care coverage, similar to costs that one may experience for other drugs through traditional coverage. Medicaid programs will continue to cover COVID-19 treatments without cost sharing through September 30, 2024. After that, coverage and cost sharing may vary by state.

Food and Drug Administration’s emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for COVID-19 products, including tests, vaccines, and treatments, will not be affected. The existing EUAs are still in effect, and the agency may continue to issue new EUAs going forward when criteria for issuance are met.

Access to buprenorphine for opioid use disorder treatment in Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) will not be affected. Patients will still be allowed to start buprenorphine in an OTP by telehealth and without requirement of an in-person physical examination.

Testing for COVID-19 will change. Medicare patients will still be covered for laboratory-conducted COVID-19 tests, but over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 tests will no longer be free. Private insurance companies will no longer be required to cover COVID-19 tests without cost sharing, both for OTC and laboratory tests.

Medicare and Medicaid telehealth flexibilities will remain in place through December 2024.

PREP Act and New West Virginia Pharmacy Immunization Law

The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) will still be in effect until at least May 11, and more than likely until October 2024. Currently, under the PREP Act in West Virginia, pharmacy technicians can vaccinate patients 18 years of age and older for influenza and COVID-19 and patients aged three to 17 for all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-recommended vaccines with informed parental consent. The West Virginia Legislature passed House Bill 2754, which allows licensed technicians, pharmacy interns, and pharmacists to give all CDC-recommended vaccinations to patients 18 years of age and older and to patients aged three to 17 with informed parental consent without a physician prescription. The West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, Board of Medicine, and Board of Osteopathic Medicine will promulgate the rules for this new law prior to July 1, 2023, to ensure that there is no gap in the provision of care for these services in the pharmacy.

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West Virginia Board of Pharmacy

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