



LOUISIANA BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Renewal Time for Pharmacists and Pharmacies (23-10-750)

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, 2023. Just prior to that date, you should receive a renewal notice, by email, from licensing@pharmacy.la.gov. Those who do not have an email address on file with the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy will receive the renewal notice by mail the first week of November. You have three options to renew your credentials:

1. Visit the Board's [website](#) and renew your credential using the online services portal and an electronic method of payment.
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.

The online renewal module on the Board's website is programmed to automatically activate at 12:01 AM on November 1, 2023. While the Board makes every effort to maintain the online convenience during the renewal cycle, internet service providers 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

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day of the renewal cycle. To avoid late renewal and reinstatement fees, 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 usually 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. As a reminder, the Board's interim policy during the COVID-19 public health emergency, which waived the requirement for live CPE, expired on December 31, 2022. The Board's rules for CPE requirements for renewal of pharmacist licensure are found in Section 507 – Continuing Education Program. The rule requires a pharmacist to acquire at least 15 hours of Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited CPE each year to qualify for the renewal of their pharmacist license. Of those 15 hours, at least three hours must be earned via live presentation. The rule offers an alternative for those pharmacists unable to earn at least three hours via live presentation; they shall obtain at least 20 hours of ACPE-accredited CPE each year to qualify for the renewal of their pharmacist license.

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, 2023 – especially if you require a renewed license on or before January 1, 2024. 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, United States 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. Upon receipt of a paper application, Board staff will ensure compliance with CPE requirements by viewing your CPE Monitor transcript. If the minimum CPE requirements are not reflected, your application will be returned, unprocessed.

- Current pharmacist licenses expire at midnight on December 31, 2023. 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 and a \$200 reinstatement 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 of 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, 2023. There is no “grace period.”
- The fee for the timely renewal of a pharmacy permit is \$225, which includes the \$25 prescription monitoring program 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 and a \$200 reinstatement 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 and a \$200 reinstatement 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.

Online Services (23-10-751)

Over the past several months, the Board has made substantial improvements to the features offered within its online services portal for both individuals and facilities. As a credential holder, you already have an established account that may be accessed at <https://www.pharmacy.la.gov/page/online-services-login>. Once logged in, you may submit applications, renewals, changes of address, upload documents, and more. The online services portal now serves as the appropriate avenue for submitting documents to the Board office. Submissions to the Board office are no longer accepted by email. The Board looks forward to implementing more features in the near future.

Pharmacist Responsibility (23-10-752)

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.

Spotlight on Compliance (23-10-753)

Maintaining a clean pharmacy department is required by the Board. According to [state law](#), a drug is considered adulterated "if it has been prepared, packed, or held under unsanitary conditions whereby it may have been contaminated with filth or whereby it may have been rendered injurious to health." It is unlawful to possess or dispense adulterated drugs.

The pharmacy permit holder and pharmacy personnel should do their part to ensure that the prescription department is clean and orderly. Take the time to look closely at your department, ensuring that floors are clean and free of debris, the ceiling is free from stains and sagging tiles, shelves are free of dust and grime, countertops are clean and uncluttered, and air conditioner vents are free of mildew. Medication and containers that will eventually hold medication may not be stored on the floor. A keen eye and a plan to maintain a clean department helps ensure that the medications you dispense and administer are safe and effective.

New Rules (23-10-754)

The Board has completed the rulemaking process for the following five regulatory projects with publication of the final rules in the September 20, 2023 edition of the *Louisiana Register*, with immediate effective dates. The Board distributed email notices regarding the progress of these regulatory projects in addition to maintaining the information on the “Regulatory Projects” page of the Board’s website. Please refer to the “[Regulatory Projects](#)” page to view the status and details of each project.

- **Regulatory Project 2023-03 – Pharmacy Benefit Managers**
- **Regulatory Project 2023-04 – Healthcare Workplace Violence Prevention**
- **Regulatory Project 2023-05 – Pharmacy Change of Ownership**
- **Regulatory Project 2023-06 – Staffing Ratios**
- **Regulatory Project 2023-08 – DATA-Waiver Registration Elimination**

Disciplinary and Other Licensure Actions (23-10-755)

During its August 16, 2023 meeting, the Board took action in the following matters:

Destiny Maria Glenn (PTC.030000): For her failure to furnish to the Board information legally requested, the Board suspended her credential for an indefinite period of time; and further, assessed a fine of \$500 plus hearing, administrative, and investigative costs; and further, conditioned the acceptance of any future application upon the satisfaction of certain requirements identified within the hearing order.

Rachel Margaret Kling (PTC.031203): For diverting controlled substances (CS) from her employer pharmacy, the Board suspended her credential for an indefinite period of time; and further, assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus hearing, administrative, and investigative costs; and further, conditioned the acceptance of any future application upon the satisfaction of certain requirements identified within the hearing order.

Camille De’Von Jones (PTC.031282): For her failure to furnish to the Board information legally requested, the Board suspended her credential for an indefinite period of time; and further, assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus hearing, administrative, and investigative costs; and further, conditioned the acceptance of any future application upon the satisfaction of certain requirements identified within the hearing order.

BayMark Health Services of Louisiana, Inc, dba BAART Programs Alexandria (Alexandria, LA) (PHY.008214): For its failure to designate a replacement PIC until 62 days after the previous PIC vacated that position, the Board assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Louisiana CVS Pharmacy, LLC, dba CVS Pharmacy No. 5544 (Pineville, LA) (PHY.005767): For its failure to conform to the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing pharmacy practice regarding a prescription misfill, the Board assessed a fine of \$1,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Louisiana CVS Pharmacy, LLC, dba CVS Pharmacy No. 0266 (Lake Charles, LA) (PHY.005831): For its failure to inform the Board regarding a PIC change, the Board assessed a fine of \$25,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Walgreen Louisiana Co, Inc, dba Walgreen Pharmacy No. 04566 (Lafayette, LA) (PHY.004057): For its accountability for shortages of CS and failure to provide effective controls and procedures to guard against theft or diversion, the Board assessed a fine of \$15,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Walgreen Louisiana Co, Inc, dba Walgreen Pharmacy No. 09526 (Pineville) (PHY.005545): With repeated history and another occurrence involving shortages of CS and failure to provide effective controls and procedures to guard against theft or diversion, the Board assessed a fine of \$75,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Walgreen Louisiana Co, Inc, dba Walgreen Pharmacy No. 09753 (Donaldsonville, LA) (PHY.005593): For improper closure of the pharmacy permit, the Board assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Walgreen Louisiana Co, Inc, dba Walgreen Pharmacy No. 19904 (Metairie, LA) (PHY.007607): For improper closure of the pharmacy permit, the Board assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Pharmaceutical Specialties, LLC, dba Pharmaceutical Specialties (Baton Rouge, LA) (PHY.008107): For its failure to comply with federal standards for compounding with respect to dispensing 2,380 prescriptions using non-Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved semaglutide sodium, the Board assessed a fine of \$35,700 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Michael Marist Bourg (PST.016141): For his actions as the owner and PIC of Pharmaceutical Specialties in Baton Rouge, by failing to comply with federal standards for compounding with respect to dispensing 2,380 prescriptions using non-FDA-approved semaglutide sodium, the Board suspended his pharmacist license for one year beginning on August 16, 2023, and terminating on August 16, 2024, suspended the suspension, and placed the credential on probation for the period of suspension, subject to conditions; and further, assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus administrative costs.

Albanye Miranda Randall (PST.019134): 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 May 24, 2023.

Patrick Joseph LaBorde (PST.024203): 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 June 5, 2023.

Courtland Gregory Dickinson (PST.023335): 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 26, 2023.

Sharad Chandra Rai (PST.019797): 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 27, 2023.

Jernesha Monica Holmes (CPT.016892): For 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.

Casey Dawn Quebodeaux (CPT.011169): For her failure to disclose her January 2023 arrest on her renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Cra'Jean Ja'Lynn Jasper (CPT.015675): For her failure to disclose her May 2023 arrest on her renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Jason Paul Bergeron, Jr (CPT.011391): For his failure to disclose his May 2023 arrest on his renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Leon Joseph Dion (CPT.008174): For his failure to disclose his July 2022 arrest on his renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Lo Gilian Daleine Davidson (CPT.012069): For her failure to disclose her June 2023 arrest on her renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Lekinya Sunja Farris (CPT.013828): For her failure to disclose her May 2023 arrest on her renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Joni Marcia LeDuff (CPT.010994): For her failure to disclose her January 2023 arrest on her renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Danielle Marie Elter Fontenot (CPT.011959): For her failure to disclose her May 2023 arrest on her renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Kayla Renee' Jones (CPT.011029): For her failure to disclose her August 2022 arrest on her renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Danielle Viola Scott (CPT.012711): For her failure to disclose her July 2022 arrest on her renewal application for 2023-2024 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$250 plus administrative costs.

Jack Michael McGuire (PST.022318): For his failure to disclose an order issued by the Michigan Board of Pharmacy on March 12, 2019, on his renewal application for year 2020 despite specific questioning for such information, the Board issued a letter of reprimand; and further, assessed a fine of \$1,000 plus administrative costs.

Monica Rodriguez (CPT.005283): Board granted her request for reinstatement of the lapsed pharmacy technician certificate, conditioned upon her satisfaction of the following requirements prior to August 16, 2025: (1) acquisition of at least 250 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit subject to certain terms; and (2) acquisition of at least 10 hours of ACPE-accredited technician-specific CPE.

Linda Marie Himel (CPT.003327): Board granted her request for reinstatement of the lapsed pharmacy technician certificate, conditioned upon her satisfaction of the following requirements prior to August 16, 2025: (1) acquisition of at least 250 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit subject to certain terms; (2) acquisition of at least 10 hours of ACPE-accredited technician-specific CPE; and (3) successful completion of a Board- approved pharmacy technician examination (Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam administered by Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or, in the alternative, Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians administered by National Healthcareer Association).

Ebonee Eshea Williams (CPT.009201): Board granted her request for reinstatement of the lapsed pharmacy technician certificate, conditioned upon her satisfaction of the following requirements prior to August 16, 2025: (1) acquisition of at least 250 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit subject to certain terms; and (2) acquisition of at least 10 hours of ACPE-accredited technician-specific CPE.

Necol Montriel Guy (CPT.003480): Board granted her request for reinstatement of the lapsed pharmacy technician certificate, conditioned upon her satisfaction of the following requirements prior to August 16, 2025: (1) acquisition of at least 250 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit subject to certain terms; (2) acquisition of at least

10 hours of ACPE-accredited technician-specific CPE; and (3) successful completion of a Board- approved pharmacy technician examination (Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam administered by Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or, in the alternative, Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians administered by National Healthcareer Association).

Kristin Danielle Arceneaux (CPT.004890): Board granted her request for reinstatement of the lapsed pharmacy technician certificate, conditioned upon her satisfaction of the following requirements prior to August 16, 2025: (1) acquisition of at least 250 hours of updated practical experience under the authority of a special work permit subject to certain terms; and (2) acquisition of at least 10 hours of ACPE-accredited technician-specific CPE.

Nakia Richelle Lockett (CPT.012426): Board granted her request for reinstatement of the previously suspended certificate, converted the duration of the suspensive period to a term of five years and stayed the execution of the suspension, then placed the certificate on probation for five years, effective August 16, 2023, subject to certain terms enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Patience Marie Viator Bergeron (PST.019238): Board granted her request for modification of previous orders by removing Article 2-e from her May 26, 2021 Probation Board Order, which removed her restriction from holding the position of PIC.

Hurshie Douglas Stegall (PTC.032077): The Board placed any credential issued by the Board to the respondent on suspension beginning on August 16, 2023, and terminating on August 16, 2028, suspended the suspension, and placed the credential on probation for the period of suspension, subject to certain terms enumerated within the voluntary consent agreement.

Calendar Notes (23-10-756)

The Board office will be closed on:

- November 10, 2023, in observance of Veterans Day;
- November 23, 2023, for Thanksgiving Day;
- November 24, 2023, for Acadian Day (if declared);
- December 25, 2023, in observance of Christmas Day; and
- January 1, 2024, in observance of New Year's Day.

Special Note (23-10-757)

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.

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