



OREGON BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

No. 729 A Message From the Board's New Executive Director, Jamal T. Fox, MPA

To my fellow pharmacy colleagues,

It's a distinct pleasure and honor to have been selected as the executive director of the Oregon Board of Pharmacy. As a former pharmacy technician and manager at a community pharmacy, life has surely come full circle for me to be back in the pharmacy profession. As the Board's executive director, it is an important responsibility to help ensure that all areas of pharmacy can meet the health care needs of Oregonians and do so in a way that is safe, ethical, and accessible to everyone.

It's important to recognize the contributions and achievements of my predecessor, Joe Schnabel. Not only has Joe helped the Board make progress on a variety of priorities, but he's also been highly praised for guiding the Board – and all of Oregon – through the COVID-19 emergency.

The pharmacy profession is not known for being the fastest-moving discipline – for good reasons in most cases. But the pandemic required a very rapid response, as well as close coordination with other agencies and providers, and Joe played a pivotal role in ensuring that the Board and staff met that challenge.

It has been several months since I officially started in this position, and, as you can imagine, I have been “drinking from a fire hydrant” since then. I still have plenty to learn, and all of you I've spoken with so far have been very valuable in helping me understand the current situation and challenges facing the Board and the practice of pharmacy in Oregon.

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These are clearly challenging times for the pharmacy profession. Achieving the Board's mission is not easy when safe practice conditions are threatened, when there is a shortage of people entering the field, and when we're trying to enhance regulation and compliance while authorizing innovative solutions to meet the needs of diverse patients and communities.

What I'm hoping to bring to the Board is a renewed energy and commitment to address these issues by ensuring that it serves as both an effective regulatory agency and a supporter of new ideas and practices. As we update and enforce new rules to ensure patient safety, we must focus equally on service to and support for licensees so they can do their jobs and meet the needs of their customers and patients.

Working with the Board provides a great opportunity to work together to clarify these commitments and priorities, to strengthen communication and collaboration, and make our efforts more inclusive, productive, equitable, and successful.

I'm really looking forward to continuing to get to know you all better and do what I can to not only support the work you've done but help respond even more effectively and efficiently to the needs of pharmacy practice across the state.

My team and I look forward to strengthening our partnership in promoting, preserving, and protecting public health, safety, and welfare of all Oregonians.

No. 730 New Rules for Licensees, Board Administration, and Universal Rules – Effective March 1, 2024

As previously announced in article #723 of the [November 2023 Newsletter](#), new rules for Pharmacists, Interns/Preceptors, Certified Oregon Pharmacy Technicians (COPTs)/Pharmacy Technicians (PTs), Board Administration, and Universal Rules are effective on March 1, 2024.

If you have not done so already, please read the new [rules](#), review the [Navigation Chart](#) for Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 855 rule revisions, watch the virtual informational sessions on the new rules, and implement process changes as needed in the pharmacy to ensure compliance with the new rules. There are three informational session videos available on the Board's [website](#):

1. Pharmacists
2. Interns & Preceptors
3. Certified Oregon Pharmacy Technicians & Pharmacy Technicians

These sessions are available 24/7 on the Board's website. You can earn continuing pharmacy education (CPE) in pharmacy law by completing the quiz and evaluation using the link provided in the video.

No. 731 New Vaccination Protocols – Effective February 1, 2024

At the December 2023 Board meeting, the Board adopted revised vaccination protocols **effective February 1, 2024**.

What is happening? Since February 1, 2024, the vaccination prescribing process changed from the process that was in place since pharmacists began providing vaccinations in 2000. Under the new process, the development and revision of vaccine protocols has been transferred from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to the Board's Public Health and Pharmacy Formulary Advisory Committee (PHPFAC).

Why is it happening? To streamline and consolidate pharmacist prescribing rules, the Board is in the process of moving all pharmacist prescribing services to the PHPFAC. Prior to this move, there was not an effective way for pharmacists to provide feedback on the vaccine protocols. Under the PHPFAC, pharmacists can submit feedback utilizing the Feedback Form on the PHPFAC [web page](#).

When did it happen? As of February 1, 2024, pharmacists who prescribe vaccines must use the new vaccination protocols (v. 2/2024) found on the Board's PHPFAC [web page](#).

What has changed?

- When prescribing vaccines, pharmacists follow three key [protocols](#):
 - *Standard Protocol for All Vaccines: Cover Page & Assessment and Treatment Care Pathway*
 - *Standard Protocol for All Vaccines: Managing Adverse Reactions*
 - *Individualized Vaccine Protocol for each type of vaccine (eg, cholera, hepatitis A/B, influenza).*
- Shared clinical decision-making algorithms are now integrated into the human papillomavirus, meningococcal, pneumococcal, and respiratory syncytial virus protocols. Pharmacists may prescribe and administer these vaccines unless the algorithm indicates otherwise, in which case a health care provider's prescription is required.
- There is no longer a multiple-signature page available.

What do I need to do?

Pharmacists need to:

1. Review the updated [protocols](#) and be aware of significant changes from the OHA versions.
2. Obtain updated [protocol](#) documents (v. 2/2024) and begin using on February 1, 2024.

3. Discontinue using OHA vaccine protocol documents after January 31, 2024. Do not discard any records associated with vaccinations.
4. Review the [amended rules](#) in OAR 855-020 as all of the rules in this division apply to the prescribing of vaccines from February 1-February 29, 2024. Effective March 1, 2024, rules related to prescribing via the PHPFAC protocols can be found in [OAR 855-115-0330 through OAR 855-115-0345](#).
5. Follow future Board rulemaking as the vaccination protocols will be updated more regularly under the PHPFAC. You can sign up for [rulemaking notices](#) to receive notifications of proposed and adopted rules. You can also submit feedback on the vaccine protocols utilizing the Feedback Form on the PHPFAC [web page](#).

No. 732 Rulemaking

Licensees are encouraged to review rules added, amended, repealed, and sent to rulemaking during the December 2023 and February 2024 Board meetings.

- **Rules Adopted in December 2023**
 - [Divisions 019/025/041/139](#) – related to pharmacist/COPT/PT administration of vaccines, effective January 1, 2024.
 - [Division 020](#) – related to vaccination protocols – protocol compendium, effective February 1, 2024.
 - Each adopted protocol may be viewed [here](#).
 - [Division 041](#) – related to Drug Outlet Pharmacy requirements: personnel, general, non-resident, prescription, laboratory, & prescription transfers, effective March 1, 2024.
 - [Division 080](#) – related to Schedule II prescriptions, effective December 19, 2023.
 - [Divisions 115/125](#) – related to pharmacist/COPT/PT administration of vaccines, effective March 1, 2024.
 - [Division 115](#) – related to pharmacist supervision, counseling, PIC qualifications & limitations, effective March 1, 2024.
 - [Division 125](#) – related to pharmacy technician prohibited practices, effective March 1, 2024.
- **Rules Adopted in February 2024**
 - [Division 001](#) – related to procedural rules – Repeal effective February 29, 2024.
 - [Division 006](#) – related to definitions, effective March 1, 2024.

- **Division 010** – related to Board administration and policies – Repeal effective February 29, 2024.
- **Division 019** – related to pharmacists – Repeal effective February 29, 2024.
- **Division 020** – related to pharmacist prescriptive authority – Repeal effective February 29, 2024.
- **Division 020** – related to temporary suspension of pharmacist prescriptive authority – protocol compendium, effective February 29, 2024.
- **Division 025** – related to pharmacy technicians – Repeal effective February 29, 2024.
- **Division 031** – related to interns – Repeal effective February 29, 2024.
- **Divisions 041/110** – related to consulting drugless pharmacies, effective February 29, 2024.
- **Division 041** – related to institutional Drug Outlet labeling requirements for short-acting opioid antagonists, effective February 15, 2024.
- **Division 115** – related to pharmacists – applicability, effective March 1, 2024.
- **Division 115** – related to pharmacists – collaborative drug therapy management, effective March 1, 2024.
- **Division 120** – related to preceptor license renewal or reinstatement, effective March 1, 2024.

No. 733 Compliance

The Board is taking action to improve transparency and compliance with two key initiatives: a new monthly disciplinary report and updated self-inspection forms (SIFs) for pharmacies.

- **Board Disciplinary Action Report**

To make it easier for licensees and interested parties to find recent disciplinary action, the Board has started publishing a monthly report of Board disciplinary actions. This report will help remove the current difficulties in finding this information. Right now, you can use the Board’s online tool (license verification) to search for information about licensees and registrants, including disciplinary actions. But this system is not ideal as you must know the name of the licensee or registrant you are seeking disciplinary action for. The online verification tool does not actively tell you when someone is disciplined and does not show actions against people/entities who are not currently licensed/registered. Other health care agencies in Oregon and pharmacy boards around the country do a better job of sharing disciplinary information with the public in a clear and helpful way and the Board is committed to doing the same. You can locate the Board disciplinary action report [here](#).

- **SIFs Are NOT Due Until July 1, 2024**

This is a reminder about the 2024 SIFs for pharmacies and other drug outlets in Oregon.

- Due date: July 1, 2024 (as previously announced in article #694 of the [November 2022 Newsletter](#)).
- Updated SIFs:
 - Normally: Will be released in May each year.
 - This year (2024): Will be released by April 1 because of major rule changes happening on March 1, 2024 (see article #730 of this *Newsletter* for details).

Why the early release in 2024? We want to give everyone ample time to adjust to the new rules and complete the updated SIFs accurately. By having the forms available in March, you can:

- Review the changes: Familiarize yourself with any new SIF questions or revised sections related to the March 1 rule updates.
- Gather necessary information: Ensure that you have all the documentation and details needed to complete the updated form accurately.
- Ask questions: If you have any doubts or need clarification on the new SIF or rule changes, you can reach out to the Board before the July 1 deadline.

Remember:

- SIFs are an important tool for identifying and correcting any compliance issues in your pharmacy.
- Completing them accurately and on time helps ensure the safety and well-being of your patients and staff.

We encourage you to take advantage of the early form release and start preparing your 2024 SIFs as soon as possible.

No. 734 Licensing

COPTs and PTs: Update your contact information! The 2024-2026 license renewal is coming soon, and you must renew by June 30, 2024. Has your address or contact information changed since your license was issued or renewed? You can log in to your [eGov](#) account at any time to view your information on file, update your contact or employment information, submit training records (eg, immunization administration and non-Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education CPE certificates), and order certified copies of your license. Instructions on how to link to your account and log in to the eGov system are available on the Board's [website](#).

No. 735 Board Member/Agency Staff News

The Board is pleased to announce the addition of Jennifer Hall as a new member, extends a warm welcome to Gary Runyon, compliance officer, and acknowledges the retirement of Joseph Schnabel, executive director.

- **Board Member News**

Jennifer Hall has been appointed to the Board as a pharmacist Board member by Governor Tina Kotek. Jennifer is a clinical pharmacist with Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, Randall Children’s Hospital and Unity Center for Behavioral Health in Portland, OR. She received her doctor of pharmacy degree at Pacific University School of Pharmacy and has been a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist since 2012. Her term on the Board of Pharmacy began on October 5, 2023, and ends October 4, 2027. The Board and staff welcome Jennifer to the Board and look forward to working with her in her new role.

- **Board Staff News**

Gary Runyon has joined the team as a compliance officer. Gary is a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in Memphis, TN, and brings over 20 years of diverse pharmacy experience to Oregon, where he relocated in 2020. His expertise spans retail, long-term care, and academia, and he has held numerous leadership roles throughout his career. Notably, Gary served as a district-level educator for new pharmacists, a statewide trainer for health testing services, and a regional quality assurance lead. Gary is excited to embark on this new chapter, leveraging his extensive knowledge and experience to contribute to the Board’s mission.

Joe Schnabel, the Board’s executive director since 2018, retired in November 2023. His 30+ years in health-system pharmacy were invaluable during his tenure, which included:

- Steering the Board through COVID-19: Ensured Oregonians maintained access to pharmacy services during the pandemic’s unprecedented challenges.
- Modernizing operations: A new website, e-Gov online services, and a reinvigorated strategic plan were implemented, streamlining processes and enhancing accessibility.
- Championing public health: Expanded pharmacist prescribing (PrEP, PEP, travel medications), promoted safe practice conditions, and increased access to naloxone and medication disposal.

- Embracing innovation: Facilitated the adoption of remote dispensing, prescription lockers, and telework, modernizing pharmacy practice and work models.
- Advocating for equity: Implemented initiatives like dual-language labeling, interpretation services, and prescription readers, improving access for diverse communities.

Joe's dedication leaves a lasting impact on the Board and countless Oregonians. His leadership and achievements will be deeply missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire future endeavors. The members of the Board and agency staff wish him all the very best for his well-earned retirement!

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