



NEW MEXICO BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Significant Adverse Drug Events

1. A 78-year-old male patient was prescribed metolazone 5 mg tablets via telephone prescription. The retail pharmacy that filled the prescription entered, labeled, and dispensed methimazole 5 mg tablets to the patient. After taking the incorrect medication for approximately six weeks, the patient reported minor swelling. The pharmacist noted multiple contributing factors to the error, including look-alike-sound-alike medications as well as the same pharmacist receiving and checking the medication (no “new” eyes). The pharmacist recommended having someone other than the final check pharmacist initially enter the prescription into the computer system.
2. A new prescription for aripiprazole 5 mg tablets was faxed to a retail pharmacy for a 52-year-old female patient. The pharmacy mistakenly dispensed aripiprazole 30 mg tablets. After taking the incorrect dose twice, the patient reported that she had to go to the emergency room because of dizziness and nausea. As a result of the error, the pharmacist required training and remediation of all pharmacy staff. This included review of standard operating procedures and e-learning on data entry/verification.

Disclaimer: These suggestions are made by the pharmacist submitting the Significant Adverse Drug Event Report. The publication of recommendations is not an indication of endorsement by the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy.

National Pharmacy Compliance News

A Service of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation (NABPF)

Visit NABP's website for the latest regulatory updates and news from FDA, USP, NABP, and more.

[Read National News](#)

Disciplinary Actions

The Board took the following action during the October 2023 meeting:

Senior Care Solano House – CU00011478. Settlement Agreement. The respondent agreed to the following terms:

- Through a consultant pharmacist, the facility must provide training to staff on a continuing basis to ensure the security of dangerous drugs and controlled substances (CS).
- Together with the consultant pharmacist, the facility will establish and implement policies and procedures to ensure the security of CS.
- Facility will provide a quarterly consultant pharmacist inspection report to the Board for one year, reflecting proper oversight.
- Respondent will ensure that no further losses or removal of medications shall occur unless authorized by Board rule.

The Board took the following action during the January 2024 meeting:

Compounding Pharmacy of America – PH00005036. Settlement agreement. The respondent agreed to the following terms:

- Must implement a corrective action plan related to violations, approved by Board's executive director.
- Facility shall refrain from similar violations in the future, including the delivering of CS prescriptions into New Mexico, not pursuant to a valid prescription.
- Facility shall not solicit prescriptions for New Mexico.
- Facility must pay a fine of \$4,500.

Walgreens Pharmacy – PH00004123. Settlement agreement. The respondent agreed to the following terms:

- The facility must implement a corrective action plan approved by Board's executive director within 30 days to prevent similar errors from occurring.
- Facility must pay a fine plus the cost of investigation: \$7,250.

Shayla Romero – Technician applicant. Default denial of pharmacy technician registration and application.

Maximiano Jasso – Technician applicant. Default denial of pharmacy technician registration and application.

Sarah Sasek – PT00008872. Summary suspension of pharmacy technician registration.

CS Prescription Red Flags

Pharmacists play a critical role in ensuring that CS medications reach patients responsibly and with due diligence. The process of prescription verification requires a keen awareness of red flags that may signal potential issues during the initial evaluation, final check, and dispensing process. Though not all-inclusive, the following are some of the red flags with CS prescriptions that merit attention and scrutiny when encountered in your practice:

1. Overutilization and early refills.
2. Doctor shopping and polypharmacy.
3. High-strength prescription(s) without previous history.
4. Potential prescriber issues regarding CS (eg, issuing prescriptions for highest strength and/or for large quantities, drugs prescribed are inconsistent with the prescriber's area of practice, treating multiple people with the same address, practitioner is outside of the state or usual geographic area of the pharmacy).
5. Address or phone number on prescription does not match practitioner's actual practice address or phone number.
6. Patient sedation or intoxication upon presentation at the pharmacy.
7. Unfamiliar patient, outside of state or usual geographic area.
8. Requests for cash transaction instead of insurance.

Red flags may also be raised by specific requests for CS, such as promethazine with codeine, oxycodone 30 mg, alprazolam 1-2 mg, etc. Ensure that you have access to legitimate third-party means of verification of prescriber credentials. Utilize the prescription monitoring program to help with early identification of potential issues. Make sure that contact information for a provider to verify a questionable prescription is obtained from a reputable source. Remember that a **current** government-issued ID is required before releasing the filled prescription, unless an exception exists; see 16.19.20.42(E) New Mexico Administrative Code. A pharmacist's role extends to the safety and well-being of their patients. It is the pharmacist's duty to identify and clear red flags related to CS prescriptions prior to dispensing. **Also, keep in mind that just because a prescription is electronically prescribed does not mean that it is necessarily legitimate.**

2024 Board Meeting Dates

Thursday, April 18 to Friday, April 19, 2024

Thursday, July 18 to Friday, July 19, 2024

Thursday, October 17 to Friday, October 18, 2024

Meetings begin at 9 AM unless otherwise noted. Each meeting agenda will be posted on the Board website at least 72 hours in advance. Additional information and the list of Board meeting dates can be found on the Board's website.

2024 Law Update Schedule

Please contact the Board at least a week prior to a Board-sponsored law update (via email at pharmacy.board@rld.nm.gov) to reserve your spot and register so that you can receive continuing education credit for the law update. Please include your name, pharmacist license number, the date and time of the session you wish to attend, and your contact information in the message. The Albuquerque area law updates will be held by webinar. In 2024, the Board will hold one law update on the first Friday of each month from 2-4 PM. If you wish to attend a pharmacy law update that is sponsored by the New Mexico Pharmacists Association (NMPPhA) or the New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NMSHP), please contact the organizations directly to reserve your spot. Please note that the dates and times for the NMPPhA- or NMSHP-sponsored law updates vary.

Upcoming Albuquerque Pharmacy Law Lecture Dates

- April 5, 2024
Webinar. Registration closes on April 3.
- May 3, 2024
Webinar. Registration closes on May 1.
- June 7, 2024
Webinar. Registration closes on June 5.
- July 5, 2024
Webinar. Registration closes on July 3.
- August 2, 2024
Webinar. Registration closes on July 31.
- September 6, 2024
Webinar. Registration closes on September 4.
- October 4, 2024
Webinar. Registration closes on October 3.

- November 1, 2024
Webinar. Registration closes on October 30.
- December 6, 2024
Webinar. Registration closes on December 3.

2024 Pharmacy Law Update Schedule: Other New Mexico Areas

Board inspectors will also hold law update webinars for areas outside of Albuquerque, although **registration is open to licensees** regardless of area of residence. Please contact the Board by email at pharmacy.board@rld.nm.gov to register and reserve your spot. Please include your name, pharmacist license number, the date and time of the session you wish to attend, and your contact information in the message. The Board-sponsored pharmacy law updates will generally be held on a Tuesday from 2-4 PM.

Upcoming Pharmacy Law Lecture Dates (Outside of Albuquerque)

- March 13, 2024
Espanola area webinar. Registration closes on March 8.
- April 30, 2024
Gallup area webinar. Registration closes on April 26.
- May 14, 2024
Raton area webinar. Registration closes on May 10.
- July 30, 2024
Alamogordo area webinar. Registration closes on July 26.
- August 13, 2024
Roswell area webinar. Registration closes on August 9.
- September 17, 2024
Carlsbad area webinar. Registration closes on September 13.
- November 19, 2024
Las Cruces area webinar. Registration closes on November 15.

* Remember that the law update hosted by the Board, while presented at no charge, does **not** have an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education number and is not reported to CPE Monitor®.

Reminder

- Be sure to submit Adverse Drug Event reports to the Board within **15 days of discovery**. This is required by regulation and could potentially result in disciplinary action if not compliant. This report **must** include an appropriate root cause analysis with recommendation(s) for improvement.

The New Mexico Board of Pharmacy News is published by the New Mexico 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.

Alejandro Amparan, RPh - State News Editor

Lemrey "Al" Carter, PharmD, MS, RPh - National News Editor & Executive Editor

Megan Pellegrini - Publications and Editorial Manager

5500 San Antonio Dr NE, Suite C | Albuquerque, NM 87109 |
Tel: 505/222-9830 Fax: 505/222-9845 In-State Only Toll Free: 1-800/565-9102 |
<https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/pharmacy>
