

GEORGIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

New Online Process for Vaccine Protocol Agreements for Pharmacists

The Georgia Composite Medical Board has launched its new licensing system for vaccine protocols.

To register for a new account, the Medical Board outlined the following steps:

- 1) Visit [Licensure Gateway | Georgia Composite Medical Board](#).
- 2) Click on "Register."
Individuals who have a license with the Medical Board will need to select "Yes."
- 3) Fill in all the required fields with your information.
- 4) Click "Confirm" and "Complete."

As part of the [vaccine protocol agreement application](#), pharmacists will be required to complete and submit either the "Vaccine Protocol Agreement Form WITH Alternate

Physician" or "Vaccine Protocol Agreement WITHOUT Alternate Physician," a protocol agreement fee, an affidavit that is signed by a pharmacist or nurse that is covered by the protocol agreement, and proof of individual liability insurance (which covers a minimum of \$250,000 for claims that surface due to administering vaccines).

After submission of an appropriate protocol, a pharmacist may immediately begin administering vaccinations in accordance with their signed protocol. Compliance with applicable rules and regulations does not require receipt of response or confirmation from the Georgia Composite Medical Board prior to initiation of practice under a protocol, and such initiation of practice shall not subject a pharmacist to disciplinary action.

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New Online Process for Vaccine Protocol Agreements for Pharmacists

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A copy of the signed protocol must be available in the pharmacy in hard copy or for immediate digital recall for inspections by agents of the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency (GDNA).

Failure to appropriately maintain a copy of the protocol for such inspection can result in disciplinary action by the Georgia Board of Pharmacy.

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agents Implement New Software System for Pharmacy Inspections

The Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency has utilized a new software system during pharmacy inspections. Some specific updates include the following:

- **Printed Inspections**

Discontinued: Agents will no longer print inspections for pharmacists on site.

- **Email Delivery:** Once an inspection is signed and completed, it will be automatically emailed to the

pharmacist at the email address provided during the inspection.

- **Address Flexibility:** Each company can choose its preferred email address – whether it's directed to the pharmacist on duty, pharmacist in-charge, the pharmacy facility's email, a district supervisor, or a corporate compliance person/division.
- **Backup Plan:** In the event of any system issues that prevent

immediate emailing, agents will ensure the inspection is sent as soon as possible, which should occur within two business days.

- **Support:** If a pharmacist has questions or encounters issues, they should reach out directly to GDNA Director Michael Karnbach or GDNA Deputy Director Alec Mathis, Jr.



COVID-19 Vaccines Published in ACIP Immunization Schedule

New recommendations for **COVID-19 vaccines** have been published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP's) immunization schedules. Pharmacists may immunize patients

under a vaccine protocol agreement, which includes consultation with a health care provider for shared clinical decision making. A physician prescription is not required for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Implementing Rule Change Timeline

The Board of Pharmacy gets many questions about the length of time it takes to implement a rule change. The following is a sample timeline of events:

- 1) Rule change language is discussed by the Board.

2) Rule is drafted and discussed again during the next Board meeting. If no changes are necessary, official language is adopted by the Board.

3) Rule draft is sent to the Attorney General’s office for official review and authority confirmation.

4) The proposed change is posted for public comment for at least 30 days prior to a public hearing.

5) A public hearing is held prior to a scheduled Board meeting, and a vote is taken on the proposed rule/change.
- 6) If the Board votes to adopt the rule, the rule is sent to the Governor’s Office. The Governor has 90 business days to review and sign.

7) If the Governor signs and approves the rule, a certificate of “Active Supervision” is issued.

8) The certificate of “Active Supervision” is submitted to the Secretary of State’s Office for final review of the form.

9) The new rule becomes official 20 days later and only after being posted on the Secretary of State’s website.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

The Board will meet on the following dates:

- December 17, 2025

• January 21, 2026

• February 18, 2026
- March 18, 2026

• April 22, 2026

• May 20, 2026

Newest List of Rule Changes to Be Posted to Secretary of State’s Website

During its September 2025 meeting, the Board updated the language of several rules related to continuing education requirements for pharmacy technicians, destruction of controlled substances, personnel


responsibilities, and more. The Board also created a new chapter concerning the rules that apply to third-party logistics providers. The updated rules are expected to be posted on the [Secretary of State’s website](#).

Board Rules Updated	
Board Rules/Chapter Number	Title
Rule 480-5-.03	Code of Professional Conduct
Chapter 480-7C	Third-Party Logistics Providers

Newest List of Rule Changes to Be Posted to Secretary of State's Website

(cont)

Board Rules Updated	
Board Rules/Chapter Number	Title
Rule 480-7C-.01	Definitions
Rule 480-7C-.02	Third-Party Logistics Provider Licensing Requirements
Rule 480-15-.02	Registration of Pharmacy Technicians and Continuing Education Requirements
Rule 480-15-.04	Duties of the Pharmacist in Charge Related to Registered Pharmacy Technicians
Rule 480-24-.02	Personnel
Rule 480-24-.03	Physical Requirements
Rule 480-24-.06	Destruction of Drugs



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