

SC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, & REGULATION – BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

Pharmacist Renewals and CE

Pharmacist renewal notices for 2026-2027 will be emailed in early February to the validated email address on file with the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation – Board of Pharmacy. To access your renewal online, you will need your user ID and password. The email renewal will contain a link that will allow you to reset your user ID and password, if needed. Please plan accordingly, as there are times when incorrectly answered questions delay processing and cause the renewal to be late. Failure to ensure that your correct email is on file with the Board may also delay the processing of your renewal application.

If you choose not to renew online, you may request a paper renewal form from the Board office and renew by mailing the completed

form and proper fees. If mailed, the Board must receive the application **before** April 1, 2026, including all required fees, data, and certification of acceptable continuing education (CE). If not postmarked by **March 31, 2026**, a penalty of \$50 must be assessed, per state law.

Renewal applications submitted between April 1 and April 30, 2026, must include the renewal fee plus the \$50 penalty. If you do not renew by April 30, 2026, your license will be considered lapsed. You may be disciplined for unlicensed practice if you work in South Carolina with a lapsed license.

Please make sure your CE meets all the specific requirements outlined below **before** renewing your license. **You may not renew until all CE requirements have been fulfilled.**

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Pharmacist Renewals and CE

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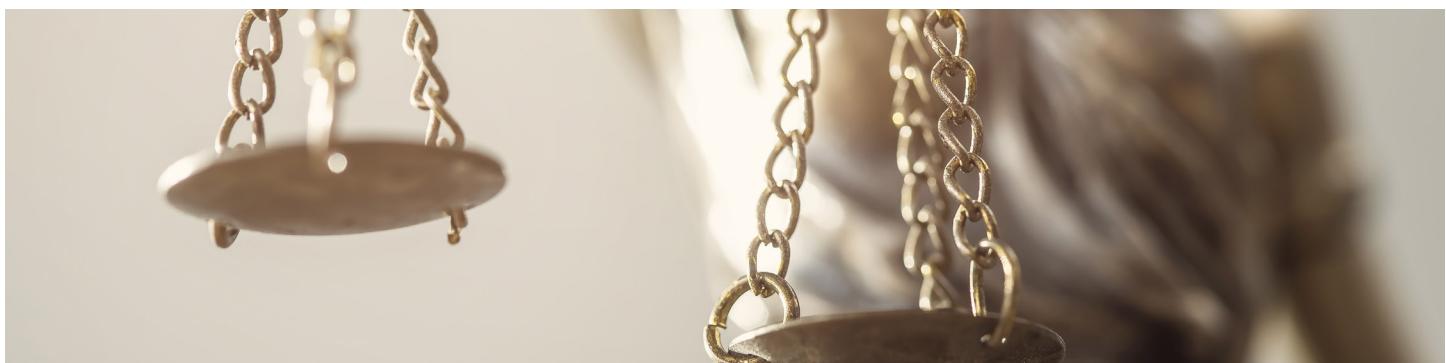
When renewing, you must attest that you meet the renewal requirements, including having **completed** the annual requirement of 15 hours of CE. At least 50% (7.5 hours) of the total must be in drug therapy or patient management. At least one hour must be related to the approved procedures for monitoring the controlled substances (CS) listed in Schedules II, III, and IV as noted in South Carolina Code of Laws Annotated §§ 44-53-210, 44-53-230, and 44-53-250. If you are a pharmacist who administers immunizations in South Carolina, you must complete at least one hour of Category 1 continuing medical education or Accreditation Council for Pharmacy

Education-accredited continuing pharmacy education related to the administration of vaccines as part of your annual licensure requirements. In addition, if you are a pharmacist who dispenses oral contraceptives via the Pharmacy Access Protocol in South Carolina, you are required to have one hour of CE related to contraceptives.

As a reminder, the license year runs from May 1 through April 30. All CE needs to have been obtained during the previous license year (May 1, 2025, through time of renewal) to be valid. If you are using excess carryover hours, a total of 30 hours must have been obtained between May 1, 2024, and the time of your renewal. It is

the responsibility of the licensee to document which hours are used for each license year.

As required by state law, a random CE audit of 10% of licensees will be conducted after renewals are processed. Please respond promptly if you are selected for the audit. Disciplinary action may be taken if you cannot provide documentation that all CE requirements were completed prior to submitting your renewal. Please note, if this is your first renewal since receiving your license, you are exempt from the CE requirements.



State-Certified Pharmacy Technician Requirements in South Carolina

Registered pharmacy technicians may qualify for state certification in South Carolina by meeting **all** of the following requirements:

- Have a current South Carolina pharmacy technician registration;

- Obtained a high school diploma or equivalent;
- Passed the national exam from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) or the ExCPT exam from the National Healthcareer Association (NHA);

State-Certified Pharmacy Technician Requirements in South Carolina

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- Worked at least 1,000 hours as a registered pharmacy technician under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist; and
- Completed a Board-approved technician course that is either accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) or recognized by PTCB.

Once **all** of the requirements have been met, applicants should submit all documents to the Board. The registration will be upgraded to signify the state-certification status after verification of the submitted documents.

Obtaining national certification through PTCB or NHA is not the same as achieving state certification. Only state-certified pharmacy technicians may be

authorized by their supervising pharmacist to perform the following actions, including but not limited to:

- receiving and initiating verbal telephone orders for non-controlled prescriptions;
- conducting one-time prescription transfers for non-controlled prescriptions;
- checking another technician's refill in an institutional setting; and
- checking another technician's repackaging of medication from bulk to unit dose in an institutional setting.

Additionally, the pharmacist-to-technician ratio may only be expanded to one to four if two technicians have applied for and obtained the specific South Carolina designation for state certification.



Pharmacist Notification Requirement Reminders

All pharmacists who serve as consultant pharmacists and all permit holders are reminded that the Board must be notified in writing within 10 days of a change of the consultant pharmacist. This applies to the outgoing consultant and the permit holder.

Permit holders and pharmacists who serve as pharmacist-in-charge (PIC) for a permitted pharmacy are both required to notify the Board when a change occurs. The current PIC has a duty to notify the Board immediately when they

have a change of employment or responsibility as the PIC. The permit holder must notify the Board within 10 working days.

No pharmacy may operate without a PIC pursuant to SC Code Annotated §40-43-86(B)(1). Similarly, there should be no gaps in coverage of consultant pharmacists. Forms to report this notification are available on the Board's website.

ISMP Safety Briefs: 'Wrong Drug Error Involving Return-to-Stock Vial'

This column was prepared by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), an Emergency Care Research Institute affiliate.

ISMP recently shared dispensing incidents involving return-to-stock (RTS) process errors. In a recent report, a patient who had a prescription for HYDROcodone-acetaminophen was given a mixture of two CS: HYDROcodone-

acetaminophen and an RTS bottle of oxyCODONE-acetaminophen. The error wasn't discovered until the patient saw two different tablets in the vial and contacted the pharmacy. Multiple factors contributed to the error, such as the lack of an RTS label with a usable barcode on the prescription. ISMP encourages pharmacists to review its Best Practice 7, "Maximize the

use of technology to prevent errors during the return-to-stock (RTS) process," as outlined in *Targeted Medication Safety Best Practices for Community Pharmacy*.

Read ISMP's suggestions for preventing RTS process errors on [NABP's National Pharmacy Compliance News page](#).



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