

GEORGIA BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

From the Executive Director

Greetings,

Recently, our state has been contending with wildfires in middle and southern Georgia. In a few months, we'll be navigating hurricane season. In light of recent emergencies and those likely on the horizon, I want to remind all licensees that the Board of Pharmacy does not exist solely to license and discipline. If you or your pharmacy experience an event that

potentially or does compromise your compliance with Georgia law or the Board's rules, I encourage you to contact the Board or your Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency (GDNA) agent. The Board office and GDNA have a variety of tools that can help licensees avoid hardship.

Sincerely,

J. Clinton Joiner II
Executive Director
Georgia Board of Pharmacy

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Recently Adopted Rules

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy recently approved several rule amendments intended to modernize pharmacy regulations, improve consistency with current practice standards, and reduce unnecessary or duplicative requirements. Key changes include the following:

- Repeal of outdated patient notification requirements related to central fill pharmacies

- Updates to compounding and hospital pharmacy rules to align with current United States Pharmacopeia standards and modern pharmacy operations
- Clarification of hospital pharmacy definitions, including provisions related to hospital-at-home programs and remote order entry services

Recently Adopted Rules

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- Revisions to hospital pharmacy physical and equipment requirements, including limited exemptions for certain mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities
- Updates to hospital drug distribution and sterile compounding requirements to reflect current practice and regulatory standards
- Amendments to remote automated medication system rules to clarify staffing, security, inventory, and access requirements
- Repeal of outdated mail-order pharmacy delivery rules that are now addressed through other applicable state and federal requirements

Chapter Title	Rule	Rule Title	Action
Hospital Pharmacy Regulations	480-13-.01	Definitions	Amend
Central Filling Regulations	480-10A-.08	Notification to Patients	Repeal
Remote Automated Medication Systems	480-37-.03	Minimum Requirements	Amend
Pharmaceutical Compounding	480-11-.04	Facilities and Equipment	Amend
Hospital Pharmacy Regulations	480-13-.05	Physical Requirements	Amend
Hospital Pharmacy Regulations	480-13-.06	Drug Distribution Control	Amend
Delivery by Mail	480-48-.01	Definitions	Repeal
Delivery by Mail	480-48-.02	Conditions for Use of Delivery by Mail	Repeal
Delivery by Mail	480-48-.03	Delivery by Pharmacy	Repeal
Prescription Delivery	480-48-.01	Definitions	Adopt
Prescription Delivery	480-48-.02	Conditions for Use of Delivery	Adopt
Prescription Delivery	480-48-.03	Prescription Integrity	Adopt
Prescription Delivery	480-48-.04	Prescription Security	Adopt
Prescription Delivery	480-48-.05	Record Keeping	Adopt
Prescription Delivery	480-48-.06	Not Applicable to Wholesale Distribution	Adopt

Recently at the Board of Pharmacy

Over the past three months, the Board has continued to work on several significant regulatory and policy initiatives impacting pharmacy practice throughout the state. Topics discussed included proposed revisions to prescription delivery and drone delivery rules, updates

to hospital pharmacy and compounding requirements, remote order entry policies, automated medication systems, pharmacy technician registration requirements, and facility licensure processes. The Board also reviewed proposed rule changes intended to modernize

Recently at the Board of Pharmacy

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existing regulations and align Board rules with current pharmacy practice and technology standards.

The Board considered multiple waiver and variance requests involving hospital pharmacy operations, laminar flow hood requirements, central fill pharmacy operations, technician ratios, and pharmacy equipment requirements. Several discussions focused on balancing operational flexibility with patient safety and regulatory compliance, particularly for rural hospitals, mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities, and evolving pharmacy technology models.

The Board also discussed emerging technologies and evolving practice models, including pharmaceutical

autonomous delivery systems (drone delivery), automated emergency medication cabinets in long-term care settings, and expanded use of remote processing systems. Board members emphasized the importance of modernizing regulations while maintaining safeguards against diversion and ensuring appropriate pharmacist oversight.

Additionally, GDNA provided operational updates each month regarding inspections, investigations, complaint resolution timelines, and enforcement activities.

The Board continued to review disciplinary matters, applications, and compliance issues while working to improve administrative efficiency and regulatory clarity.

Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency Update

By Michael Karnbach, GDNA Director

Along with the Board of Pharmacy, GDNA is proud to be of service to the citizens of Georgia. Our agency is currently accepting applications for the special agent position in southeast Georgia. If you live in or around southeast Georgia and have at least two years of professional experience as a pharmacist, we encourage you to apply.

Please visit our website at gdna.georgia.gov to start the application process.

It is the mission of GDNA to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public by ensuring all laws pertaining

to pharmacy, dangerous drugs, and controlled substances are followed by both registrants and any others who handle or possess pharmaceuticals. As the enforcement arm of the Georgia Board of Pharmacy, our agents inspect every licensed pharmacy in the state of Georgia. Agents conduct investigations of these pharmacies related to public complaints and administrative issues. Agents also conduct criminal investigations regarding prescription drug abuse throughout the state that may or may not involve licensed pharmacies.

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy News is published by the Georgia 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.

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