

July 2004



North Carolina Board of Pharmacy

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Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

Item 2041 – Disciplinary Actions

March-May

Reinstatement of Pharmacist License with specific conditions: 3

Consent Order in Lieu of Administrative Hearing: 2

The Consent Orders were issued regarding: violation of rule which requires a physician’s examination or prior patient relationship for a valid prescription; selling drug samples.

Prehearing Conference:

Letter of Warning: 2

Suspension of Permit with Stay Period: 1

The actions above were taken regarding: dispensing Neurontin® 300 mg on a refill order for Neurontin 100 mg; dispensing estazolam on a prescription for estradiol; dispensing Celexa® on a prescription order for Claritin®.

Item 2042 – Talk It Up

This is the first issue of the *North Carolina Board of Pharmacy News* that is being electronically distributed. While the format is similar, the state and national sections are now separated and the state information is the first that will appear on your screen. At the end of the state text, there is a link to the National Pharmacy Compliance News section and we urge you to read the entire publication.

Please make a point to discuss this new method of *Newsletter* distribution with your pharmacy friends and colleagues. We want to make sure that there is optimum circulation and readership of this new format.

Item 2043 – More Online Renewals

Pharmacists should be aware that for the 2005 Renewal Season (which begins November 1, 2004) in addition to pharmacist and Devices in Medical Equipment (DME) online renewals, the Board will be offering pharmacy and technician online renewals. Look for more information about this offering in the October *Newsletter*.

Item 2044 – HIPAA Guidelines

The Board is maximizing the use of its Web site, www.ncbop.org, and encourages pharmacists to review that location for any questions that arise. There is a new section on this Web site for interpretations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act as it applies to pharmacists and pharmacies. Please refer to that section for the most current information on this topic.

Item 2045 – Election Results

The ballots from the Board of Pharmacy Elections were counted on the afternoon of May 17, 2004, in the Board offices in Chapel Hill. The results of the counting appear below:

District 3 [Southeastern NC]

L. Stan Haywood	1,772
Athena L. Smithwick	485

District 4 [Northeastern NC]

Travis M. Gilliard	178
Albert F. Lockamy, Jr.....	872
Wallace E. Nelson.....	1,261

As a consequence, the members of the Board of Pharmacy Elections convened on May 18 and certified the count of ballots as noted above. It was the Board’s decision that Mr Haywood be declared the winner in District 3, receiving 78% of the votes cast in this district, and Mr Nelson be declared the winner in District 4, receiving 54% of the votes cast in this district.

Mr Haywood and Mr Nelson were both re-elected to a five-year term beginning in the Spring of 2005.

Item 2046 – Repackaged Pharmaceuticals

Some nursing home patients, for one reason or another, receive their pharmaceuticals by mail. Pharmacists have been asked to repackage these products in a manner that will conform to other dispensed products at the nursing facility.

In the January 1991 Board *Newsletter* it is clear that Food and Drug Administration regards the practice of repackag-

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ing of drugs from a prescription container (as dispensed by a pharmacist to a patient) into unit-dose containers as a violation of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act resulting in misbranded drugs.

We trust that pharmacists will guide their practice accordingly.

Item 2047 – Pharmacists and Immunizations

The Board has proceeded through the administrative rule process and adopted a Rule (.2507) on immunizations that can be found on our Web site under “New Developments.”

Key points contained in the rule are:

- ◆ Written Protocols
- ◆ Physician Responsibilities
- ◆ Pharmacist Responsibilities
 - CPR Certificate
 - Complete Vaccination Certificate Program (the North Carolina Association of Pharmacists [www.ncpharmacists.org] plans to offer this in September 2004)
 - Three Continuing Education (CE) Hours Every Two Years
- ◆ Emergency/Adverse Reaction Procedures

Item 2048 – Additional 50-Plus Year Pharmacists

Due to an editorial mix-up, three individuals were omitted from the 50-year pharmacist list in Item 2037 of the April 2004 *Newsletter*. Their names appear below.

Lewis M. Ferguson, Taylorsville, NC

Ellis M. Fincher, Tryon, NC

Carson M. Keys, West Jefferson, NC

Item 2049 – Online Spanish Courses for Health Professionals

The University of North Carolina School of Public Health offers several online CE courses for health professionals. One

of these is “Spanish for Health Professionals” and pharmacists may wish to take advantage of this offering.

This *Newsletter* has published several items to remind pharmacists that there has been a large increase in the Latino population of this state (Items 905, 917, 1057, 1161, and 1190).

The Board also offers a poster to notify Spanish-speaking patients that they can obtain their prescription labels and other drug information in Spanish. Board rules have recently been amended to provide that, in the case where prescription labels or other drug information is provided in Spanish, no further patient consultation is necessary.

Item 2050 – DME News

Elections were held this spring for a vacant seat on the Board’s DME Committee. No candidate received more than 40% of the votes and a run-off election was requested. Ballots were counted at the June meeting of the DME Committee and results can be found on the DME’s Web site.

This is a reminder to renew your DME permit in a timely manner. Several permits were not renewed on time this year, which required disciplinary action by the Board. In some cases this included notice to third party payors who made payment adjustments for that equipment dispensed during the time the permit was void. Please keep this in mind when renewing your permit for 2005.

The North Carolina Board of Pharmacy Web site, located at www.ncbop.org, provides a link to the DME Web site.

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