

North Carolina Board of Pharmacy

Durable Medical Equipment Committee Meeting

Minutes of April 28, 2009

Chairwoman Marcia Ladd called the meeting to order at 10 am at the Board of Pharmacy office. Present for the meeting were Marcia Ladd, Betty Dennis, Karen Womack, Mel Elliott and Joey McLaughlin (via telephone), committee members. Board staff present included Karen Matthew, Constance Manion, Krystal Brashears, Amy Sykes, Wendy Watson, Debbie Stump, and Sarah Phillips, Board Counsel. Visiting attendee Todd Jacobus.

Chairwoman Ladd read the ethics statement.

The minutes for the October 28, 2008, meeting was approved by all.

Old Business

Chairwoman Ladd brought up that the "Frequently Asked Question" about oxygen delivery was now on the DME portion of the Board of Pharmacy website. She stated she had received no questions from DME providers about the question.

New Business:

The DME Committee recognized Marcia Ladd for her five years of service to the committee as the medical provider representative. Ms. Ladd was presented with a plaque by Ms. Matthew in recognition of her service.

The election process was discussed for the DME position. As soon as the Board of Pharmacy Board member elections were over, the election for the DME position would be posted. All current DME permittees within North Carolina would be allowed one vote in the election. It was noted a simple majority was all that was needed for a winner; i.e. at least 40% of the vote was required to declare a winner.

Wendy Watson discussed the closing of DME permits on April 1, 2009, following the grace period. She stated seventy (70) DME permits did not renew and were now closed as inactive. She stated she thought the accreditation process required by CMS had closed some of the DME facilities down. Ms. Watson added that the Board does not often receive notification that a DME has closed.

Krystal Brashears discussed her investigations of DME facilities and stated that she had only worked three cases in 2008. The type of complaints the Board office received included billing issues, often involving Medicare Part B.

Chairwoman Ladd and Mel Elliott discussed that the codes utilized by DMEs for Medicare billing were listed on different websites. They also discussed that there was a difference between a prescription and a certificate of medical necessity.

Ms. Watson noted that a DME facility just supplying diabetic supplies and shoes did not need to be permitted with the Board of Pharmacy.

A brief discussion was held about a new state statute establishing the Drug, Supplies and Medical Device Repository Program. Mr. Elliot mentioned that a lot of DME companies recycle wheelchairs. Ms. Matthew stated the Board was developing rules for the implementation of the statue which would hopefully be adopted within the next year.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at the Board office at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 27, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Marcia Ladd, Chairperson

Betty Dennis

Karen Womack

Mel Elliott

Robert (Joey) McLaughlin, Jr. (via telephone)