Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Maryland Board of Pharmacy
Deena Speights-Napata, MA
Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

June 5, 2020

VIA REGULAR & CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
ARTICLE # 7017 1450 0002 3456 9455

Shivangi Bhatt, Pharm.D.
[redacted]

Re: License No. 26677
Case No. 20-180
Notice of Recommended Civil Penalty

Dear Dr. Bhatt:

The Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") conducted an annual inspection of your pharmacy employer ("Pharmacy A") in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 17, 2019. During that inspection, it was noted that you administered vaccinations as part of your practice. However, you were not registered with the Board for approval to administer vaccinations under the authority of your pharmacist's license as required by the Board's laws and regulations. The Board received further information that you administered vaccinations without Board registration both before and after the Board's inspection notifying you of the deficiency. The Board's records indicate that you subsequently obtained Board registration on September 25, 2019.

I. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The Board finds that you administered vaccinations, before and after the Board's inspection noting the deficiency, without having a Board registration to administer vaccinations as required in order to administer vaccinations under the authority of your pharmacist's license.

A pharmacist must obtain Board registration in order to administer vaccinations in accordance with the Maryland Pharmacy Act, Health Occ. Art. § 12-508(b)(2) and COMAR 10.34.32.03.

II. RECOMMENDED CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY

Under Maryland Health Occupations Article § 12-314 and COMAR 10.34.11, the Board of Pharmacy has the authority to impose a civil monetary penalty based upon violations of the Maryland Pharmacy Act.

Based upon the findings and conclusions above, the Board hereby recommends the imposition of a **civil monetary penalty of $500.00**.

In determining the recommended civil monetary penalty, the Board took into consideration the aggregating and mitigating factors outlined in COMAR 10.34.11.04.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

If you dispute the findings, conclusions or the civil monetary penalty, you may request an evidentiary hearing on the Board's decision in this matter. In the event that you request an evidentiary hearing, the Board shall initiate formal proceedings which will include the opportunity for a full evidentiary hearing. The hearing will be held in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann. State Gov't § 10-201 *et seq.*, and COMAR 10.34.01. Any request for a hearing must be submitted in writing to Donna Goldberg, R.Ph., J.D., Maryland Board of Pharmacy, 4201 Patterson Ave., 5th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, **no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Notice.**

Please be advised that at the hearing you would have the following rights: to be represented by counsel, to subpoena witnesses, to call witnesses on your own behalf, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, to testify, and to present summation and argument. Should the Board find you guilty of the violations cited herein, the Board may impose formal public disciplinary action against your license such as a reprimand, placing your license on probation, suspension, or revocation. The Board may also impose a civil penalty against your license not to exceed a maximum of $10,000. If you request a hearing but fail to appear, the Board may nevertheless hear and determine the matter in your absence.

IV. OPTION TO PAY RECOMMENDED MONETARY PENALTY

Alternatively, you may pay the recommended civil monetary penalty **within thirty (30) days** of the date of this Notice, in the form of a certified check or money order made payable to the Maryland Board of Pharmacy.

Please mail the check or money order to:

Wells Fargo Bank
Attn: State of Maryland - Board of Pharmacy
Lockbox 2051
7175 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

NOTE: Please include the case number 20-180, on your check or money order to ensure proper assignment to your case.

Upon your payment of the civil monetary penalty, this Notice will constitute the Board's final action with respect to this matter, and shall constitute a public order under the Maryland Public Information Act, General Provisions Art. § 4-333, and be posted on the Board's website in accordance with Health Occ. § 1-607, and reported in accordance with State and federal laws.

If you have any questions concerning the instructions contained in this letter, please contact Donna Goldberg, R.Ph., J.D., at 410-764-3768.

Sincerely,

Deena Speights-Napata, M.A.
Executive Director

cc: Linda Bethman, AAG, Board Counsel