



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Maryland Board of Pharmacy
Kristopher Rusinko, PharmD, Board President
Deena Speights-Napata, M.A., Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

**BY REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
ARTICLE #7019 2280 0000 6568 4783**

August 8, 2024

Giant Pharmacy #117
6223 Baltimore National Pike
Baltimore, Maryland 21228
Attn: Menachem Edelman, R.Ph., Pharmacy Manager

Re: Permit No. P00259
Case No. 24-224
Notice of Deficiencies, Recommended Civil Monetary Penalty, and
Opportunity for Hearing

Dear Pharmacy Manager:

On December 1, 2023, the Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”) conducted an annual inspection of Giant Pharmacy #117 (the “Pharmacy”) for compliance with statutes and regulations governing the operation of a pharmacy. The Board’s inspection indicated that the Pharmacy was not compliant with laws governing pharmacist administration of vaccines. Specifically, the Pharmacy employed a pharmacist (Pharmacist A) who did not have valid CPR certification obtained through in-person instruction, nor did the Pharmacy have the CPR certification readily available as required in order to administer vaccinations. The Board also received additional documentation indicating that Pharmacist A administered approximately 1,485 vaccinations without valid CPR certification. The Board’s records indicate that Pharmacist A subsequently obtained valid CPR certification on February 3, 2024.

I. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The Board finds that the Pharmacy permitted Pharmacist A to administer approximately 1,485 vaccinations without valid CPR certification obtained through in-person classroom instruction as required in order to administer vaccinations under the authority of a pharmacist’s license. The Board further finds that the Pharmacy did not have the CPR certification readily available at the time of inspection.

Based upon deficiencies at the Pharmacy, the Board finds that the Pharmacy is in violation of the Maryland Pharmacy Act and the regulations adopted thereunder. Specifically, the Board finds the Pharmacy in violation of Health Occ. Art. § 12-403(c)(1) and § 12-508(b)(2), and COMAR 10.34.32.03D (1).

II. RECOMMENDED CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY

Under Maryland Annotated Code, Health Occupations Article § 12-410 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 deficiencies reported at the Pharmacy, the Board hereby recommends the imposition of a **civil monetary penalty of \$1,000.00**. The deficiencies upon which the civil monetary penalty is based are set forth in the Notice above and the Inspection Report, dated December 1, 2023.

In determining the recommended civil monetary penalty, the Board took into consideration the aggregating and mitigating factors outlined in COMAR 10.34.11.08.

III. FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION

Please be advised that the Board of Pharmacy may perform a follow-up inspection of the Pharmacy to ensure that the deficiencies noted in the Inspection Report have been addressed and corrected. Specifically, all staff pharmacists who are registered to administer vaccinations must maintain proper active CPR certification obtained through in-person instruction. Should the follow-up inspection indicate that the Pharmacy has further deficiencies, the Board may pursue further disciplinary action against the Pharmacy that may result in the imposition of sanctions such as suspension, revocation or additional monetary penalties.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

If the Pharmacy disputes the findings, conclusions or the civil monetary penalty, the Pharmacy may request an evidentiary hearing on the Board's decision in this matter. In the event that the Pharmacy requests 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 Trina Leak, Pharm.D., Compliance Director, Maryland Board of Pharmacy, 4201 Patterson Ave., 5th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, no later than thirty (30) days of the date of this Notice.

Please be advised that at the hearing the Pharmacy would have the following rights: to be represented by counsel, to subpoena witnesses, to call witnesses on its own behalf, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, to testify, and to present summation and argument. Should the Board find the Pharmacy in violation of the Maryland Pharmacy Act, the Board may suspend or revoke the pharmacy permit, impose civil penalties, or both. If the Pharmacy requests

a hearing but fails to appear, the Board may nevertheless hear and determine the matter in its absence.

V. OPTION TO PAY RECOMMENDED CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY

Alternatively, the Pharmacy 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 MD - Board of Pharmacy
Lockbox 2051
401 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

NOTE: Please include the case number, 24-224, on your check or money order to ensure proper assignment to your case.

Upon the Pharmacy's payment of the civil monetary penalty, this Notice will constitute the Board's final action with respect to the inspection dated December 1, 2023, and shall be a final order and public document and order under the Maryland Public Information Act. Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Art. § 4-101 et seq., and posted and reported in accordance with State and federal laws.

If you have any questions concerning the instructions contained in this letter, please contact Trina Leak, Pharm.D., at (443) 685-8318.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, M.A.
Executive Director

cc: Linda Bethman, AAG, Board Counsel
Trina Leak, Pharm.D., Compliance Director
Jitan Patel, R. Ph., Compliance Investigator Supervisor
Sharica Tasker, Compliance Investigator