



# MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

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

August 7, 2019

**BY REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
ARTICLE #7018 1130 0002 2824 7602**

Merritt Star Pharmacy  
1576 Merritt Blvd., Suite 12  
Baltimore, Maryland 21222  
Attn: Fawad Shaikh, Pharmacy Manager

Re: Permit No. P05831  
Case No. 19-304  
Notice of Deficiencies, Recommended Civil Monetary Penalty, and  
Opportunity for Hearing

Dear Mr. Shaikh:

On February 15, 2019, an annual inspection was conducted by the Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") to determine if Merritt Star Pharmacy (the "Pharmacy") was in compliance with federal and State laws regarding the operation of a pharmacy. The Inspection Report indicated that the Pharmacy was not in compliance with certain requirements concerning medication inventory. Specifically, the Board's inspector performed a spot check of the Pharmacy inventory and noted approximately 26 expired medications. The Board's records indicate that the Pharmacy also had expired medications in its inventory on its last two annual inspections of August 8, 2017, and September 29, 2016.

## **I. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

The Board adopts the findings of deficiencies as set forth in the Pharmacy Inspection Report dated February 15, 2019, and attached as Exhibit A.

Based upon deficiencies cited at your 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) and COMAR 10.34.12.01B.

## II. RECOMMENDED CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY

Under Maryland 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 cited 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 noted above and in the attached Exhibit A.

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 Report have not reoccurred. 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 Donna Goldberg, R.Ph., J.D., Investigator Supervisor, 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 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 guilty of the violations cited in the Report, the Board may suspend or revoke the pharmacy permit, or 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 the Pharmacy's 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 Maryland - Board of Pharmacy  
Lockbox 2051  
7175 Columbia Gateway Drive  
Columbia, MD 21046

***NOTE: Please include the case number, 19-304, on your check or money order to ensure proper assignment to your case.***

The Pharmacy shall also submit a corrective action plan for effectively managing pharmacy inventory, specifically with respect to expired medications, and updated Pharmacy policies and procedures to reflect remedial actions included in the corrective action plan.

Upon the Pharmacy's payment of the civil monetary penalty and receipt of the corrective action plan with updated policies and procedures, this Notice will constitute the Board's final action with respect to the Inspection Report dated February 15, 2019, and shall be a public document in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act, Maryland 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 Donna Goldberg, R.Ph., J.D., Investigator Supervisor, at 410-764-3768.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata  
Executive Director

cc: Linda Bethman, AAG, Board Counsel

Attachment