



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Maryland Board of Pharmacy

Neil B. Leikach, RPh, MSc, Board President
Deena Speights-Napata, M.A., Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

**VIA REGULAR & CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
ARTICLE# 7019 2280 0000 6567 2179**

July 10, 2023

Ogechi Obi, Pharm.D.



Re: License No. 27165
Case No. 23-269
Notice of Violation and Recommended Civil Penalty

Dear Dr. Obi:

The Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") conducted an annual inspection of your pharmacy employer ("Pharmacy A") in Easton, Maryland, on September 27, 2022. During that inspection, it was noted that you were certified by the Board to administer vaccinations. However, your CPR certification had expired on June 4, 2022. Pharmacy A provided information indicating that you performed administered approximately 365 vaccinations without active CPR certification. Pharmacy A also provided the Board with a copy of a CPR certification you obtained on September 29, 2022.

I. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The Board finds that you administered vaccinations without having active CPR training through in-person classroom instruction as required in order to administer vaccinations under the authority of your pharmacist's license.

A pharmacist must maintain active CPR certification through in-person classroom instruction in order to register 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 \$250.00**.

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 recommended 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 \$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 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, 23-269, 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 September 27, 2022, inspection, and shall be a 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 Donna Goldberg, R.Ph., J.D., at 410/764-3768.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata, M.A.
Executive Director

cc: Linda Bethman, AAG, Board Counsel