

Spring/Summer 2013

Maryland Board of Pharmacy news

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The Mission of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy is to protect Maryland consumers and to promote quality healthcare in the field of pharmacy through licensing pharmacists and registering pharmacy technicians, issuing permits to pharmacies and distributors, setting pharmacy practice standards and through developing and enforcing regulations and legislation, resolving complaints, and educating the public.

Maryland Board of Pharmacy
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From The Executive Director's Desk *LaVerne Naesea, Executive Director*

This newsletter issue is dedicated to Michael N. Souranis, Rodney Taylor, David Chason, Richard Matens, and Stephanie Hammonds. Each of these Commissioners has or will end stellar terms of service on the Board of Pharmacy this year. Immediate Past President Souranis, Immediate Past Secretary, Taylor, and former Secretary and Immediate Past Licensing Chair, Chason, completed two four year terms of service on the Board in April 2013; Stephanie Hammonds and Richard Matens resigned from the Board after serving for approximately a year, and nearly five years, respectively. The commitment and passion of these five Commissioners in assuring patient safety was unmatched by members of other state Health Occupation Boards.

From 2005, when the first of these Commissioners was appointed until the writing of this article, the Board has successfully kept pace with changing trends that impact services to pharmacy patients. These pharmacy advocates garnered support for the passage of laws for pharmacists administering vaccines; safe disposal or reuse of prescription drugs through the repository program; registration of pharmacy technicians; in-house monitoring of impaired licensees under public orders; strengthened wholesale distribution into and within the State; Board inspections of pharmacies and wholesale distributors; safe sterile compounding by pharmacies; and strengthened oversight of drug dispensing by practitioners other than pharmacists. Also under their leadership, the Board successfully expanded its regulatory authority during the 2013 legislative session for all compounders of sterile drugs and products dispensed and distributed into and out of Maryland.

Independent pharmacy representative, Mike Souranis, presided over Board meetings with a gentle demeanor, offering extremely persuasive arguments that championed the rights of patients. Often consumed with compassion, Mike ardently moved the Board's ambitious agenda forward in order to 'set things right' for pharmacy patients, graduates of new pharmacy schools in Maryland, and pharmacy professionals. At-Large rep., Rodney Taylor often resorted to fist-pounding exclamations to prod staff members, top Departmental officials and legislators to take actions that improved Board operations, elicited appropriate understanding of collaborative practice protocols, as well as better assured safe dispensing by practitioners. Acute Care Hospital representative, Dave Chason, shared his clinical expertise to help the Board craft substantially improved rules for wholesale distributors, sterile compounders, drug therapy management, and prescription drug repositories. He also helped establish and refine Board and committee reviews by developing new agenda formats and case review processes.

Consumer representative, Richard Matens presented poignant perspectives of the consumers who would be ultimately impacted by Board decisions. Richard was a true champion for Maryland patients. Finally, Stephanie Hammonds, who served only a short period on the Board, proved to be very engaged in the study of laws governing the practice of pharmacy in Maryland.

Each of these members helped to promote a Board of Pharmacy that puts patients first; that confronts challenges with vigor and determination; and that helps assure that safe pharmacy practice in Maryland is strengthened. Dave, Rich, Rodney, Stephanie, and last

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Visit the Board online at <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/pharmacy>
or email to dhmh.mdbop@maryland.gov

From The Executive Director's Desk *continued from page 1*

but not least, my good friend and supporter Mike, leave a legacy that will not be soon forgotten. The Board thanks you, the Department thanks you and the State of Maryland and its citizens honor you for a job well done!

The Board is pleased to announce the recent appointments of two new Commissioners; Mr. Jermaine Smith, the new Chain representative and Mr. David Jones, Long Term Care representative. Their respective four-year terms actually began May 1, 2012 and will extend through April 30, 2016. Congratulations to both of these gentlemen to whom we look for continued leadership in meeting the Board's vision of setting a standard for pharmaceutical service which ensures safety and quality healthcare for all Maryland citizens. ■

DISCIPLINARY CORNER

Remember to Register Your Pharmacy with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)!

The **Prescription Drug Monitoring Program** is established to reduce the non-medical use, abuse, and diversion of prescription drugs while preserving patient access to optimal pharmaceutical care. Persons and entities that dispense Schedule II, III, IV, or V controlled dangerous substances (CDS) to a patient or a patient's agent in Maryland ("dispensers") are required to electronically report information on that dispensing to the PDMP. PDMP reporting requirements will become effective August 20, 2013. A pharmacy that has permit issued by the Maryland Board of Pharmacy AND a CDS permit issued by the DHMH Division of Drug Control is required to register for an online user account for reporting PDMP data beginning July 29, 2013.

Certain specialty pharmacies are exempted from the reporting requirements. For complete information and to register see the *RxSentry Dispenser's Implementation Guide* located on the Maryland PDMP website at www.hidinc.com/mdpdmp. ■



BALTIMORE FLOWER MART

1st Place Winners
Janet Seeds, Public Information Officer



The Maryland Board of Pharmacy is back on top! The Board reclaimed first place for the best decorated booth in the Wellness Community! The first place prize ribbon is hanging in the reception area of the Board office at 4201 Patterson Avenue. A lovely hanging plant was awarded with the first place ribbon.

The booth, which incorporated the Flower Mart colors of pink, green, and black in a beach scene, made for a relaxing setting on Friday, May 3, 2013. The Board, partnering with two of Maryland's schools of pharmacy (University of Maryland, Baltimore and Notre Dame University), joined other exhibitors, food and merchandise vendors, and thousands of visitors at Mt Vernon Place in downtown Baltimore. The Board distributed relevant health information and incentives to at least 800 people between 10 am and 4:30 pm. Pharmacists were available to answer questions about medications and their uses and student pharmacists were extremely busy taking blood pressures and providing general information about diabetes and cholesterol control.

The flowers and traditional spring hats seem more beautiful every year! The carnivorous plants were a special addition this year; they eat stink bugs and all kinds of insects. Of course, the lemon sticks were still a main staple towards which even those that were manning the Board booth rushed to buy. All in all it was a great day in the sun and the breeze. The Board greatly enjoys meeting you and hopes that you will stop by again next year. ■

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

PHARMACIST	LIC. #	STATUS	DATE
Stephen Cappelli, P.D.	17402	Suspended	3/8/13
Christina M. Getz, P.D.	16709	Suspended	3/20/13
Dennis P. Lee	07488	Surrendered	4/4/13
James Morrow, P.D.	08394	Revoked	2/21/13
Daniel McTaggart, P.D.	14584	Probation	3/22/13
Joy V. Webb, P.D.	10869	Probation	6/10/13
Michael N. Weisburg, P.D.	16582	Suspended	3/13/13

PHARMACY TECH	REG. #	STATUS	DATE
Tyannia Bolden	T05450	Suspended	3/29/13
Joyce DeGraft-Johnson	T05974	Revoked	5/15/13
Elizabeth Hoffman	T05106	Revoked	5/15/13
Tyvernica Marshall-Adams	T02070	Revoked	2/21/13
Kiera Reed	T11004	Suspended	6/19/13
Kristen Smith	T09415	Suspended	7/13/13
Meseret Terefe	T09286	Revoked	4/17/13

ESTABLISHMENT	PERMIT #	STATUS	DATE
Calvin Scott & Company, Inc.	unlicensed	Fine	5/15/13
Penn Veterinary Supply, Inc.	unlicensed	Fine	6/12/13
Co-op Pharmacy	P01086	Fine	6/19/13
Vortech Pharmaceuticals	D05241	Fine	6/19/13
Target Pharmacy #T-2393	P04774	Fine	6/7/13

When the Rubber Hits the Road...

The Pharmacy Board's Public Protection Role

Zeno W. St. Cyr, II, M.P.H., Maryland Board of Pharmacy Commissioner

Rain slicked streets...icy roadways...a child recklessly chasing after a ball that careens aimlessly into on-coming traffic. When the rubber hits the road, particularly during sudden stops or when driving in inclement conditions, tires may provide a driver's first line of protection from inflicting or sustaining an injury.

This is somewhat analogous to State Boards of Pharmacy in that these boards serve as the public's first line of protection from sub-standard pharmaceutical practices. The recent tragedy linking the New England Compounding Center to 45 deaths and 651 illnesses has focused new and more intense attention on the important public protection role of State Pharmacy Boards.

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy places a high value on its fiduciary responsibility to protect the citizens of Maryland as illustrated by its Vision statement: *"To set a standard for pharmaceutical services which ensure safety and quality healthcare for the citizens of Maryland."*

The Board's Vision is further amplified in its Mission which is *"To protect Maryland consumers and to promote quality healthcare in the field of pharmacy through licensing pharmacists and registering pharmacy technicians, issuing permits to pharmacies and distributors, setting pharmacy practice standards and through developing and enforcing regulations and legislation, resolving complaints, and educating the public."*

So, one might ask, how does the Maryland Pharmacy Board accomplish its Mission?

In examining each of the key responsibilities entrusted to the Board, it is evident that the Mission statement fairly well encapsulates how the Board accomplishes its mission and, by extension, its Vision.

Licensing Pharmacists and Registering Pharmacy Technicians

Licensing pharmacists and registering technicians is a fundamental responsibility of the Board and is one of its key public protection tools. Licensure is not novel to the pharmacy profession. Other professions and trades are also subject to state licensing. However, perhaps no other responsibility is as important as Licensing in a Board's public-protection armamentarium. No matter the profession, whatever the trade, the public's perception is that providing someone with a license or registration is certification that the individual is qualified to practice that trade or profession. Consequently, beyond requisite academic and/or training credentials, a typical precursor to licensing and registration is passage of a practical and jurisprudence examination. Examination plays a critical role in validating whether individuals possess and can demonstrate the critical competencies to practice their profession. Taken together, examinations and licensure/registration protect the public by assuring that only individuals that demonstrate minimal, critical competencies are allowed to practice. Further, they protect the profession from potential erosion of public confidence and, particularly in today's litigious society, potentially soaring malpractice insurance rates.

Issuing Permits to Pharmacies and Distributors

Most health occupation boards regulate people or places. Boards of Pharmacy are unique in that they regulate both. The Board's two-fold jurisdiction provides an additional layer of public protection through its permitting process. Principally through inspections by trained inspectors, the Board assures that pharmacies and distributors meet Maryland statutes and industry accepted standard

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When the Rubber Hits the Road *continued from page 3*

operating procedures. Along with licensing, issuing permits is the Board's other key public protection tool.

Setting Pharmacy Practice Standards

The Board sets general standards for the practice of pharmacy in Maryland. For example, the Board enacted regulations that set forth specific standards for certain practice settings, such as infusion therapy, institutional pharmacy, and comprehensive care.

Developing and Enforcing Regulations and Legislation

To comply with new statutes and changing pharmacy practices, Maryland's Board of Pharmacy regularly promulgates new or revised regulations each year. In some instances the Board may work with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Maryland General Assembly to develop new legislation or amend existing pharmacy statutes in order to address identified gaps in the Board of Pharmacy's public protection authority. An important and continuing Board effort is enforcement of these regulations and statutes. One area where the Board has recently focused more attention is its enforcement of the Board's Sterile Compounding regulations.

Resolving Complaints

An essential public protection responsibility of the Board is to fully investigate and resolve all complaints received. Not all complaints received are from patients. Licensees, registrants, permit holders, and government officials sometimes file complaints with the Board. No matter the source, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy considers all complaints equally and fairly, striving for consistency when disciplinary actions are taken. A complaint is judged on its merit and is resolved with due consideration of any aggravating or mitigating factors, such as the seriousness of the violation, actual or potential harm to the public, and whether the infraction is a first-time or repeat offense. It is important to note that Board disciplinary decisions are not punitive. Similar to the Board's licensing and regulatory functions, Board disciplinary actions are taken to protect the public.

Educating the Public

Maryland consumers need to know what recourse they have when prescription medication errors or other unfortunate pharmacy-related incidents occur. In this regard, a section of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy's website contains information specifically targeted to the public. Additionally, the Board participates in a number of public events throughout the year, in various locations across the State, at which information is provided to the public about the Board and pharmacy-related matters, including, but not limited to, how to file a complaint, medication consultations, and reminders about the importance of getting a seasonal influenza vaccination. Occasionally, the Board provides public service announcements to print and electronic media outlets as another avenue for educating consumers. Two

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, October 6, 2013

8 am – 11:30 am

Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys, Baltimore, MD 21210



Maryland Board of Pharmacy Annual Continuing Education Breakfast

“Prescription Drug Monitoring In Maryland”

There is no charge for this CE Training however registration is required. Please note that seating will be limited to the first 150 persons to register.

Please watch the Board website for details and more information regarding registration start date beginning August 12, 2013 through September 27, 2013.

Inquiries are to be directed to Janet Seeds at 410-764-5988 or janet.seeds@maryland.gov.

consumer representatives are also appointed to the Board to assure that consumers' interests are represented when practice decisions are considered by the Board.

In short, the Maryland Pharmacy Board undertakes a variety of activities to accomplish its mission. These activities are all linked by a common thread, and that thread is protecting the health and safety of the public by:

- Assuring the competency of pharmacy professionals; and
- Assuring that pharmacy establishments meet Maryland statutory and industry accepted standard operating policies and procedures.

*So when the rubber hits the road...
the Maryland Pharmacy Board's
first priority is protecting the public's
health through its licensing,
registering, permitting, and other
activities! ■*

2013 MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bills of Importance to the Maryland Board of Pharmacy

Below are the results of the 2013 Legislative Session Bills tracked by the Maryland Board of Pharmacy. Cross-filed bills are listed together. For further information on specific legislation see: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga> or contact Anna Jeffers, Legislation and Regulations Manager at the Board.

Bill #	Bill Name	Result
SB 139	Health Care Practitioners - Prescription Drug or Device Dispensing - Medical Facilities or Clinics That Specialize in Treatment Reimbursable Through Workers' Compensation Insurance	PASSED
HB 1237	Health Care Practitioners - Prescription Drug or Device Dispensing - Medical Facilities or Clinics That Specialize in Treatment Reimbursable Through Workers' Compensation Insurance	PASSED
SB 166	Dentists, Physicians, and Podiatrists - Dispensing Prescription Drugs - Inspection by Division of Drug Control	Not voted
HB 1032	Dentists, Physicians, and Podiatrists - Dispensing Prescription Drugs - Inspection by Division of Drug Control	Withdrawn
SB 273	Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013	PASSED
HB 225	Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013	PASSED
SB 401	Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccinations - Expanded Authority and Reporting Requirements	PASSED
HB 179	Pharmacists - Administration of Vaccinations - Expanded Authority and Reporting Requirements	PASSED
SB 595	State Board of Pharmacy – Wholesale Distribution - Pharmacies	PASSED
HB 591	State Board of Pharmacy – Wholesale Distribution - Pharmacies	PASSED
SB 515	State Board of Pharmacy – Jurisdiction over Dentists Who Prepare and Dispense Dental Products and Antibiotics	Failed
HB 783	State Board of Pharmacy – Jurisdiction over Dentists Who Prepare and Dispense Dental Products and Antibiotics	Failed
SB 617	Drug Therapy Management - Physician-Pharmacist Agreements	PASSED
HB 716	Drug Therapy Management - Physician-Pharmacist Agreements	PASSED
SB 761	Health Occupations - State Board of Pharmacy - Waivers - Pharmacies That Only Dispense Devices	PASSED
HB 868	Health Occupations - State Board of Pharmacy - Waivers - Pharmacies That Only Dispense Devices	PASSED
SB 783	State Board of Physicians – Naturopathic Doctors	Withdrawn
HB 1029	State Board of Physicians – Naturopathic Doctors	Withdrawn
SB 896	State Board of Pharmacy - Sterile Compounding - Permits	Not voted
HB 986	State Board of Pharmacy - Sterile Compounding - Permits	PASSED

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (MDBOP) has an Emergency Preparedness Task Force (EPTF) that works closely with the State of Maryland to prepare for any emergencies that may occur. This task force has enabled pharmacy to be recognized as being a vital part of the emergency teams. The MDBOP has been instrumental in writing the State Emergency Preparedness Plan to include pharmacy's role.

In order to maintain the EPTF more efficiently, the Board would like to ensure that members represent various locations throughout Maryland. This would allow for the best scenario; to have trained personnel available, regardless of where an emergency may take place.

If you would be willing to serve on the EPTF, as a representative from your specific area of Maryland, please contact Janet Seeds at janet.seeds@maryland.gov or 410-764-5988. All interested persons will be contacted.

Legislation Passed that Affects Pharmacy Practice

Anna Jeffers, Legislation & Regulations Unit Manager

HB 179 Administration of Vaccination – Expanded Authority and Reporting Requirements

Pharmacists around Maryland have Chairman Hammen of the House Health and Government Operations Committee to thank for the time and effort he put forth to expand the number of vaccines that pharmacists may administer in Maryland. Chairman Hammen held two briefings after last year's legislative session to gather all stakeholder's concerns and interests, resulting in the passage of HB 179.

Pharmacists in Maryland will be allowed by HB 179 to administer a vaccination that is listed in The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (the "CDC") Recommended Immunization Schedule to an individual who is at least 11 years old, but under the age of 18 years old, with a prescription.

Pharmacist will also be allowed to administer vaccinations to an adult listed in the CDC's Recommended Immunization Schedule or recommended in the CDC's Health Information for International Travel. The adult vaccines must be administered under a written protocol that is vaccine specific and meets criteria established by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the "Department") in regulations.

Additionally, all vaccinations administered by a pharmacist are required to be reported to the ImmuNet Program. The pharmacist is also required to document at least one effort to notify the authorized prescriber of the administration of the vaccine. If the authorized prescriber is not the individual's primary care provider, or if the vaccination has not been administered in accordance with a prescription, then the pharmacist shall document at least one effort to notify the individual's primary care provider of the administration of the vaccine.

The administration of influenza vaccinations was not affected by HB 179 and a pharmacist may still administer to an individual who is at least 9 years old under the existing COMAR 10.34.32. The implementing regulations are expected to become effective before the effective date of the bill on October 1, 2013. **Pharmacists in Maryland may not administer these new vaccines until the Department promulgates the regulations which include criteria for a vaccine specific protocol.**

SB 761/ HB 868 Health Occupations – State Board of Pharmacy – Waivers – Pharmacies That Only Dispense Devices

SB 761/HB 868 waives the requirement for entities that dispense prescription devices/DME in Maryland to employ a pharmacist. The bill is an Emergency bill and became effective when the Governor signed it on May 2, 2013.

Entities that dispense prescription devices/DME to patients in Maryland have always been required to be licensed as a pharmacy, or non-resident pharmacy if applicable, in MD. This bill waives only the pharmacist requirement if the device/DME does not contain a prescription drug. The FDA determines whether a device/DME is "prescription."

An "Application for Pharmacy Device (DME) – Only Waiver Permit" will be available on the Board's website shortly after May 15th. If this application is not yet available when this Newsletter goes to print, please submit the "Waiver Pharmacy" application if located in Maryland, or the Pharmacy Non-resident application if located out of state, and indicate that you only dispense devices/DME. Once you submit your complete application the process takes approximately 4 weeks for a decision to be rendered.

HB 225 Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013

HB 225, Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013, will require all Health Occupation Boards to expedite the licensing process for veterans, military spouses, or active duty service members in the armed forces, reserves, or the National Guard. Veterans may apply for the expedited process within one year after discharge from active duty under circumstances other than dishonorable. Military spouses may apply through the expedited process if a surviving spouse of a veteran or a service member died within 1 year before the date on which the application for a license or registration is submitted.

This legislation goes into effect on July 1, 2013. Before the effective date, the Board of Pharmacy (Board) will revise pharmacist and pharmacy technician applications to allow veterans, military spouses, or active duty service members in the armed forces, reserves, or the National Guard indicate their eligibility for the expedited process on the form. Members of an armed force deployed outside of the U.S. or its territories will be allowed to renew their licenses or registrations after the expiration of the renewal period without payment of a penalty or reinstatement fee if the late renewal is a direct result of the deployment. The Board will also allow a licensee or registrant to complete any continuing education or criminal history records check required for renewal within a reasonable time after renewing the license or registration if they have been deployed outside of the U.S. or its territories.

Eligible applicants will be assigned an advisor from the Board's licensing unit to assist with the application process and expedite the issuance of a license or registration. If necessary, the advisor will assist the applicant in identifying education, training, or experience requirements for licensure or registration. Licenses or registrations will be issued within 15 days of receipt of a completed application. The Board's process for veterans, military spouses, or active duty service members in the armed forces, reserves, or the National Guard will be posted on the Board's website in the near future.

SB 595/HB 591 State Board of Pharmacy – Wholesale Distribution – Pharmacies

HB 591, limits the authority of a pharmacy permit holder to distribute prescription drugs and prescription devices to no more than 5% of its annual sales. Pharmacies that engage in wholesale distribution must maintain distribution records separately from its other records, and make the distribution records available for inspection by the Board. In addition, **waiver pharmacies may conduct wholesale distribution only with another pharmacy permit holder.** Full service

LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS UPDATE

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pharmacies may conduct wholesale distribution with another pharmacy permit holder or a wholesale distributor, provided that the pharmacy report to the Board that it is conducting wholesale distribution with a wholesale distributor.

This legislation is effective October 1, 2013. More information will be forthcoming on the Board's website, including a new form for full service pharmacies to report to the Board when they distribute to wholesale distributors.

HB 986 State Board of Pharmacy – Sterile Compounding – Permits

In light of the tragedies resulting from compounded medications distributed into Maryland by a Maryland licensed non-resident pharmacy, the Board of Pharmacy (Board) worked with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to craft legislation to close gaps in safety for patients that receive sterile compounded prescription drugs. The new legislation, that requires all sterile compounded drugs dispensed in or into Maryland to be prepared in compliance with COMAR 10.34.19 Sterile Pharmaceutical Compounding and USP 797 Standards, will be implemented by the Board in phases through April 1, 2014.

The Board will regulate sterile compounding in Maryland in three ways. First, sterile compounding facilities, whether in or outside of Maryland, that compound pursuant to a patient specific prescription will be required to obtain a Sterile Compounding Permit from the Board. A sterile compounding facility is defined as a pharmacy, a health care practitioner's office, or any other setting in which sterile compounding is performed pursuant to a patient specific prescription. Information concerning how to apply for a Sterile Compounding Permit is forthcoming.

Second, an entity that prepares and distributes sterile drug products into Maryland is not required to hold a Sterile Compounding Permit if it 1) holds a manufacturer's permit or other permit designated by the FDA to ensure the safety of sterile drug products; and 2) holds a wholesale distributor's permit issued by the Board. A sterile drug product is defined as a drug product that must be prepared using aseptic techniques and is not required to be prepared in response to a patient specific prescription.

Third, since some entities do not fit under the first two licensing schemes, yet provide much needed medications to Maryland, an entity may apply to the Board for a "waiver" of the above requirements. This stop-gap measure is important until the FDA is able to inspect these types of entities and issue a new type of FDA permit to facilities that compound and distribute drugs, usually in large volumes, without a prescription. A waiver may be issued only for specified sterile compounded preparation or sterile drug products for which there is a clinical need, as determined by the Board, with input from licensed health care providers in Maryland. Exigent circumstances must also exist that, as determined by the Board, which would otherwise prevent health care professionals from obtaining the specified sterile compounded preparation or sterile drug product in the size and strength needed. Finally, if an entity interested in a waiver is a sterile compounding facility, or both a wholesale distributor and an FDA manufacturer, it must provide at the time of application to the Board: 1) reports of inspections conducted by a designee of the Board or the

FDA; 2) a statement of compliance with USP 797 Standards; 3) a review of adverse regulatory action; and 4) any other requirements as determined by the Board. The Board is actively drafting regulations for the implementation of the "waiver" provision and is seeking input and comments from interested stakeholders. ■

LICENSING CORNER

MHCC Increases Pharmacist Assessment

Effective July 1, 2013, the renewal fee for a Maryland pharmacist will increase from \$253.00 to \$261.00. This change is due to an increase in the required fee assessment of all Maryland-regulated health care practitioners by the Maryland Health Care Commission. The fee for all applications postmarked before July 1, 2013 will be \$252.00. The fee for all applications postmarked after July 1, 2013 will be \$261.00.

To provide a better understanding of the purpose of the fees assessed by the Maryland Health Care Commission and how pharmacy practice is impacted by their work, the following excerpt is provided from an article submitted by Ben Steffen, Executive Director for the Maryland Health Care Commission. Please visit the Board's web site to read the full article.

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) *Ben Steffen, Executive Director*

Many of you may have heard that the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC or Commission) assessment has been increased by \$4 per year of licensure. MHCC is an independent state agency located within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Its fifteen Commissioners, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, come from communities across the state, and represent both the state's citizens and a broad range of stakeholders. The Commission is financed through an assessment on hospitals, nursing homes, private payers, and most health occupations licensed in Maryland. Each sector contributes to the MHCC budget appropriation based on an assessment of the MHCC's workload. The assessment is conducted every four years. With the recent focus on delivery and payment reform, health information technology adoption, and a heightened focus on provider supply, the share of the assessment attributed to health occupations has grown modestly. Many of the initiatives were launched at the request, or with the strong support, of provider groups....(read more at: <http://mhcc.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/Home.aspx>.)

If you have questions about the MHCC assessment, please contact Bridget Zombro at bridget.zombro@maryland.gov. For general questions about the MHCC, please contact Erin Dorrien (erin.dorrien@maryland.gov) or Karen Rezabek at karen.rezabek@maryland.gov. ■



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Maryland Board of Pharmacy

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Patricia Gaither , Administration & Public Support Manager; Janet Seeds , Public Information Officer; Anasha Page , APS Assistant; Rhonda Goodman , Secretary/ Receptionist	Responds to inquiries regarding Fiscal, Budget, Procurement, Travel, Personnel and Public Information
LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS • 410-764-4794 - Attn: Stephen.Holmes@maryland.gov	
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LICENSING • 410-764-4756 - Attn: Tiffany.Duncan@maryland.gov	
Latoya Waddell , Licensing Manager; Doris James , Licensing Specialist; Keisha Wise , Licensing Specialist; Tiffany Duncan , Licensing Secretary; Janelle Jamerson , Temporary Licensing Secretary	Responds to inquiries regarding Licensing, Permits, Registrations, Reciprocity, Certifications, Scores and Verifications
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICES • 410-764-4685 - Attn: Michelle.Hsu@maryland.gov	
John Johnson , MIS Manager; Michelle Hsu , Database Officer; John Bozek , Computer Network Specialist	Responds to inquiries regarding Computer, Database and Website and On-line Renewals

BOARD COMMISSIONERS

President: **Lenna Israbian-Jamgochian**
 Secretary: **Harry Finke, Jr.**
 Treasurer: **Mitra Gavvani**
Lynette Bradley-Baker
David Chason
David Jones
Jermaine Smith
Michael Souranis
Zeno W. St. Cyr, II
Rodney Taylor

BOARD MEETINGS

Public Pharmacy Board meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month and are open to the public. The Board encourages all interested parties to attend the monthly Board Meetings.

2013 PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS DATES

Third Wednesday of each month | August 21, 2013 | October 16, 2013
 September 20, 2013*

Location: 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215.

*** The September 20, 2013 Public Board Meeting will be held offsite at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). This date is on a Friday. Check the Board Web Site for Additional information.**