

Maine Board of Pharmacy (MEBOP) Monthly Meeting

The MEBOP held its monthly meeting on Monday, November 15th, in the General Conference Room of the Department of Professional & Financial Regulation (DPFR) in Gardiner.

The meeting was called to order @ 9am by Board President, Lori McKeown.

Old Business: Minutes of their previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

Commissioner, Anne Head spoke to the MEBOP regarding rule-making and her wish to find a way to prioritize and expedite certain proposed rules in the process. She spoke of, and introduced people representing the Maine Veteran's Homes who were seeking a rule change that would allow a pharmacy central site to process prescriptions and have the medication be dispensed by a licensed professional at a series of satellite sites around the state with no pharmacist on site. This proposal had been turned-down by the MEBOP in the fall of 2009 due to lack of pharmacist supervision at the satellite sites. I expect to see this as a topic of discussion on the agenda at subsequent MEBOP meetings.

Two (2) adjudicatory hearings that were scheduled were "tabled" by the board.

Complaint Committee Report: Eight complaints were reviewed by the board with four of those complaints (50%) being dismissed.

There were two technician complaints...One against a pharmacy tech who did not disclose a conviction when seeking a license. The tech has since dropped out of pharmacy school and the board imposed a fine and a warning. The next tech complaint described the licensee as homeless with a recent arrest being reported. The board did an emergency revocation of their license and set a date for hearing on a permanent revocation.

Pharmacist complaints involved an incorrect pediatric dosage and a medication being placed in a bag for another patient. Both pharmacists received fines + warnings + an extra three CE credit hours on error prevention.

While not termed a complaint, the board tabled, pending further investigation, a disciplinary/conviction of a pharmacist who was pulled over for speeding and was found to be intoxicated...while driving to work at 7:45am in the morning.

No names are revealed regarding disciplinary actions unless it is an adjudicatory hearing, which is open to the public.

Emergency Rule-Making: Emergency and permanent rule-making is now in process that will require licensure via the MEBOP for companies who sell "Legend" medical gasses (oxygen) and medical devices directly to the public. Previously, these entities were simply licensed as "wholesalers", but new requirements require this action to obtain reimbursement from federally-funded programs such as MaineCare. Any currently licensed retail pharmacy is already meeting this requirement.

Board Action on License Renewals: There were two Sam's Club and 26 Wal-Mart Pharmacies who now meet the State's requirements for drug outlet license renewals, along with a mail-order pharmacy out west. Drug Outlet license renewals will be issued to all.

Correspondence: A delivery proposal by Spruce Mountain Pharmacy was reviewed by the MEBOP and turned down.

The board received many inquiries as to its decision at their last meeting to disallow the 20CE credits you earned for taking the Immunization training and not let these credits count towards your annual pharmacist's licensure. I am pleased to report that the MEBOP has reversed its ruling...Jeri Betts made this comment:

"At its meeting yesterday, the Board reconsidered the matter of whether the 20-hour course used to obtain the initial immunization administration license could also be used to satisfy the continuing education requirement for licensure renewal by a pharmacist and a pharmacist who hold the immunization administration license. The Board acknowledges that the 20-hour course may have been used to obtain initial licensure, but agrees that it is acceptable to permit this course to be reused to satisfy the continuing education requirements for licensure renewal regardless of what year the initial immunization administration licensure is obtained."

Administrator's Report: None

Note: Public Comment has been eliminated from the MEBOP agendas.

A motion to adjourn was voted upon and the meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob

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