

February Maine Board of Pharmacy (MEBOP) Meeting

On Thursday, February 3rd, the Maine Board of Pharmacy held its regular monthly meeting at their office complex in Gardiner. After a one-hour snow delay, waiting for enough board members to arrive to make a quorum, the meeting began.

Minutes of the January 6th meeting were approved.

The MEBOP reviewed two Decision & Orders based on the adjudicatory hearings from last month. Both D&Os were approved.

There were #34 license renewals (mostly wholesalers and mail order)...some were reviewed individually and some by group (same company, multiple locations) that required MEBOP action...all were granted licenses except two. The companies that were denied their license had failed to disclose discipline from other states on their 2009 Maine license renewals.

The board granted two pharmacy waiver requests, both for PIC hours being reduced to 5 hours per week in methadone clinics.

Only two complaints were on the docket for today's meeting:

#1 A pharmacy tech, working in a Maine mail order facility, was caught on video putting a patient's hydrocodone prescription in her pocketbook when leaving work. The facility also reported being short a whole stock bottle of the same medication a couple months ago. The tech was terminated by her employer and the board issued an emergency revocation of her license. It was stated that since the incident she was no longer working in pharmacy.

#2 An investigation arising from a previous adjudicatory hearing has led to a complaint being filed against another pharmacist who was the PIC in the same store at the time. MEBOP Senior Inspector, Tom Avery laid out the multiple allegations to the board and rather than dealing with the allegations today, have chosen to set an adjudicatory hearing...most likely in April.

Four initial pharmacy/pharmacist license requests were reviewed and approved...two for pharmacists reciprocating to Maine and the others to two mail-order companies, located outside of Maine but reporting discipline from other states.

Geri Betts gave her Board Administrator's report to the MEBOP. The emergency rule(s) promulgated by the board regarding the sale of oxygen and other legend devices is now in effect but informed the board that all rule-making, even in process of becoming a permanent rule, is currently on hold by the LePage administration. She stated that Resolve #188, regarding substitution and/or changing manufacturers when dispensing narrow therapeutic-range drugs, has been drafted and sent to group members for comments. She expects to have a final version of the resolve done shortly and sent to the legislature.

The meeting adjourned around 1:30pm.