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News

Nevada State Board of Pharmacy

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Serving on the Board

To serve on the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy (or any appointed position) is not only an honor, but an opportunity for a pharmacist to "give back" to his or her profession. Often Board members are asked how getting the opportunity to serve on the Board is accomplished, so here is how it works!

The Board of Pharmacy consists (by statute) of seven members. Six members are registered pharmacists in the state of Nevada, are actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy in the state of Nevada, and have a minimum of five years experience as a registered pharmacist preceding appointment. The seventh member is a representative of the general public and cannot be related to a pharmacist registered in Nevada.

The governor of Nevada makes the appointments, which are for three-year terms with a maximum of three consecutive terms. The appointees must be representative of the practice of pharmacy, not all from one particular type of practice, and must be prepared to address compliance issues, protection of the public health, safety, and welfare, as well as provide education to the community and licensees. The Board licenses some 17 different licensing categories including medical device, equipment, and gas providers.

The Board needs talented and devoted pharmacists who understand that the practice of pharmacy is a public trust and can assure a balanced and sensible approach to Board activities. Application to serve on the Board is obtained through the governor's office.

Pharmacy Technician Diversion

The Board of Pharmacy continues to deal with the ever-present and disturbing issue of pharmacy technician diversion of controlled substances, in fact so much so that a committee was formed and has been meeting to address the problem. Some facts that every pharmacist and every technician need to be aware of follow:

1. NRS 453.400 states that "All applicants and registrants shall establish and maintain effective controls and procedures to prevent or guard against theft and misuse of controlled substances."
2. NAC 639-520 states that the registered pharmacist on duty "is responsible for securing the prescription department at all times."
3. CFR 1301.71 (federal law) states that "all applicants and registrants shall provide effective controls and procedures to guard against theft and diversion of controlled substances."
4. NRS 453.568 states that "All loss or theft of controlled substances must be reported to the Board within 10 days after the discovery of the theft or loss."
5. CFR 1301.76 states that "the registrant shall notify the Field Division Office of the Administration in his area, in writing, of the theft or significant loss of any controlled substances within one business day of the discovery of such loss or theft" and further requires the filing of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Form 106.

Obviously, both the Board of Pharmacy and DEA take seriously the theft or loss of controlled substances, making a review by each of you of the above cited statutes and regulations prudent, especially managing pharmacists who together with their corporate superiors are responsible for security of controlled substances.

New Staff

The Board of Pharmacy is delighted to welcome two new staff members. First, in the Las Vegas, NV, office, Mr Luis Curras has replaced long-time inspector Ron Shockey. Luis is a graduate of the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and joins Board staff after a long and storied career in hospital pharmacy in and around the Las Vegas area. Being the delightful, fair, hardworking, and competent pharmacist that he is, Luis is a most welcome addition to Board staff. Secondly, Board staff was saddened to learn of the well-deserved retirement of long-time Board Coordinator Jeri Walter out of the

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AHRQ Toolset Can Assist Pharmacies Using e-Prescribing

A toolset released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) can assist independent pharmacies with the implementation of e-prescribing and may also provide useful guidance to those pharmacies already using e-prescribing. The toolset for independent pharmacies consists of seven chapters that provide guidance on topics ranging from planning the implementation process and launching the system, to troubleshooting common problems and moving into more advanced pharmacy services, states AHRQ. Flyers for use in communicating the launch to patients, templates for communicating with providers about the launch, tools for assessing pharmacy workflow, and a spreadsheet to determine return-on-investment, among other tools, are also available to pharmacies. The toolset can be downloaded from the AHRQ Web site at *http://healthit.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt/community/health_it_tools_and_resources/919/a_toolset_for_e-prescribing_implementation_in_independent_pharmacies/30595.*

FDA Database Provides Information on Pediatric Medications

A Food and Drug Administration (FDA) database provides information on pediatric medications, making it easier for both health care providers and caregivers to locate this information. The Pediatric Labeling Information Database is a one-stop resource, where providers and caregivers can search for information by the product's commercial or chemical name, or by the condition for which it was studied. The database was developed by FDA's Office of Pediatric Therapeutics (OPT), in collaboration with the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. The OPT also provides a Safety Reporting page with information on products that have been tied to safety problems that specifically relate to children. Additional information and a link to the database is available in the Consumer Updates section of the FDA Web site at *www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm305040.htm.*

Inattentional Blindness: What Captures Your Attention?

This column was prepared by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP). ISMP is an independent nonprofit agency that analyzes medication errors, near misses, and potentially hazardous conditions as reported by pharmacists and other practitioners. ISMP then makes appropriate contacts with companies and regulators, gathers expert opinion about prevention measures, and publishes its recommendations. To read about the risk reduction strategies that you can put into practice today, subscribe to ISMP Medication Safety Alert!® Community/Ambulatory Care Edition by visiting www.ismp.org. *ISMP is a federally certified patient safety organization, providing legal protection and confidentiality for submitted patient safety data and error reports. ISMP is also an FDA MedWatch partner. Call 1-800/FAIL-SAF(E) to report medication errors to the ISMP Medication Errors Reporting Program or report online at* www.ismp.org. *ISMP address: 200 Lakeside Dr, Suite 200, Horsham, PA 19044. Phone: 215/947-7797. E-mail: ismpinfo@ismp.org.*

A pharmacist enters a prescription for methotrexate daily into the pharmacy computer. A dose warning appears on the screen. The pharmacist reads the warning, bypasses it, and dispenses the medication as entered. The patient receives an overdose of the medication and dies.

This error, and many more, have happened because the person performing the task fails to see what should have been plainly visible, and later, they cannot explain the lapse.[1] People involved in these errors have been labeled as careless and negligent. But these types of accidents are common – even with intelligent, vigilant, and attentive people. The cause is usually rooted in inattentional blindness.[1]

Accidents happen when attention mistakenly filters away important information and the brain fills in the gaps with what is aptly referred to as a "grand illusion."[2] Thus, in the example above, the brain of the pharmacist filtered out important information on the computer screen, and filled in the gaps with erroneous information that led him to believe he had read the warning appropriately.

Inattentional blindness is more likely to occur if part of your attention is diverted to secondary tasks, like answering the phone while entering prescriptions into the computer, or even thinking about your dinner plans while transcribing an order.

Low workload causes boredom and reduces the mental attention given to tasks, as does carrying out highly practiced tasks, such as counting out medication. We spend a large majority of our waking life functioning with the equivalent of an automatic pilot, with occasional conscious checks to ensure tasks are being carried out properly. This makes us particularly prone to inattentional blindness.

Our past experiences also teach us what is relevant. Errors occur when new or unusual circumstances happen in highly familiar situations. The pharmacist who did not notice important information on a computer warning had rarely encountered a clinically significant computer alert. The pharmacist had subconsciously learned that there was nothing important to see when reading alerts. Nothing had ever happened, so attention was automatically filtered away from the details to conserve mental processing.

Conspicuity is the degree to which an object or piece of information "jumps out" and captures your attention. The best way to achieve this effect is through use of contrast, color, or shape to call attention to differences in packaging or text.

It is difficult to reduce the risk of inattentional blindness, as it is an involuntary and unnoticed consequence of our adaptive ability to defend against information overload. Error-reduction strategies such as education, training, and rules are of little value. Instead, efforts should center on increasing conspicuity of critical information, and decreasing diversions of attention and secondary tasks when carrying out complex tasks.

1. Green M. "Inattentional blindness" and conspicuity. Visual Expert. 2004. Accessed at *www.visualexpert.com/Resources/inattentionalblindness.html,* March 1, 2012.
2. Angier N. Blind to change, even as it stares us in the face. The New York Times. April 1, 2008.

Know Your Dose Game Teaches Safe Acetaminophen Use

As part of the Know Your Dose campaign, the Acetaminophen Awareness Coalition has developed an interactive educational game to teach safe use of acetaminophen. The game not only answers some of the most common questions surrounding the safe use of acetaminophen, it gives an engaging face to the issue. The game, available on the

Know Your Dose Web site at *www.knowyourdose.org/game,* invites consumers to follow three characters through a typical day of aches and pains while helping the characters learn how to take medicine that contains acetaminophen safely.

Contraception Products Sold Online With No Prescription Required, Endangering Public Health

Health care providers should help to educate patients about the risks of prescription contraceptive products marketed online as "no prescription" and "over-the-counter" products, pharmaceutical security researchers conclude. A study by these researchers found that Google searches returned results for prescription contraceptive products such as injections, oral contraceptives, and patches, as well as intrauterine devices (IUDs). All of these products were marketed as available without a prescription and researchers found that sellers provided links to YouTube videos with IUD instructions. The researchers also found that these products were being promoted on social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter, SlideShare, and Flickr. Researchers Bryan A. Liang, MD, JD, PhD, Tim K. Mackey, MAS, and Kimberly M. Lovett, MD, conclude that such online contraceptive sales represent patient safety risks and also suggest that policy makers should "employ legal strategies to address these systemic risks." The study, "Suspect Online Sellers and Contraceptive Access," is available in the May 25, 2012 issue of *Contraception.*

New FDA Drug Info Rounds Training Video

FDA Drug Info Rounds, a series of online training videos, provides important and timely drug information to practicing clinical and community pharmacists so they can help patients make better medication decisions. In the latest Drug Info Rounds video, available at *www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/HealthProfessionals/ucm313768.htm,* pharmacists discuss the Accelerated Approval Program and how FDA helps make new, potentially lifesaving drugs available more quickly. Drug Info Rounds is developed with contributions from pharmacists in FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Office of Communications, and Division of Drug Information.

FDA Resources Help Raise Awareness About Health Fraud Scams

To help raise consumer awareness about health fraud scams, FDA provides numerous educational resources in the Health Fraud Scams section of its Web site. Educating consumers on how to avoid such scams, FDA videos present information on various types of fraudulent products such as fake diet, sexual enhancement, and body building products. Consumers can also access information about specific products that are the subject of FDA warning letters, recalls, public notifications, and safety alerts. FDA news releases related to health fraud are also accessible through this section of the Web site.

NABP Accepting Award Nominations for 109th Annual Meeting

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) is currently accepting nominations for the Association's 2013 awards that will be presented during the 109th Annual Meeting, to be held May 18-21, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency St Louis at the Arch in St Louis, MO.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the following awards: 2013 Lester E. Hosto Distinguished Service Award (DSA), 2013 NABP Honorary President, 2013 Fred T. Mahaffey Award, and 2013 John F. Atkinson Service Award.

Nominations for these awards must be received at NABP Headquarters no later than December 31, 2012. New this year, individuals wanting to submit a nomination will be asked to fill out and complete a nomination form, which may be accessed by visiting the Meetings section on the NABP Web site at *www.nabp.net/meetings.* Criteria for award nominees will also be posted to the Web site. Nomination forms should be sent to the NABP Executive Director/Secretary Carmen A. Catizone at NABP Headquarters, 1600 Feehanville Dr, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Directions for electronic submission will be available on the online form. The NABP Executive Committee will review the nominations and select the award recipients.

For more information, please contact the NABP Executive Office via e-mail at exec-office@nabp.net.

NABP Looking for Exam and Assessment Item Writers

NABP is seeking individuals to serve as item writers for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination®, the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination®, the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination®, the Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment®, and the Pharmacist Assessment for Remediation Evaluation℠. Pharmacists in all areas of practice, and faculty from schools and colleges of pharmacy are encouraged to apply. Interested individuals should e-mail, fax, or mail a letter of interest indicating their current practice/educational setting, specialties/certifications, and years of experience, along with a résumé or curriculum vitae:

- via e-mail at exec-office@nabp.net;
- via fax at 847/391-4502; or
- via mail to NABP Executive Director/Secretary Carmen A. Catizone at 1600 Feehanville Drive, Mount Prospect, IL 60056.

Please note, applications are accepted on a continuous basis and kept on file for a period of five years. For more information about item writing, contact NABP at custserv@nabp.net. Additional information may also be found in the August 2012 *NABP Newsletter*.

Pharmacists & Technicians:
Don't Miss Out on Valuable CPE Credit.
Set Up Your NABP e-Profile and Register for CPE Monitor Today!

CPE Monitor™ integration is underway. Soon all Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)-accredited providers will require you to submit your NABP e-Profile ID, assigned when you set up your NABP e-Profile, along with your date of birth (MMDD), in order to obtain continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credit for any ACPE-accredited activity. Many have already begun to do so.

Visit ***www.MyCPEmonitor.net*** to set up your e-Profile and register for CPE Monitor and avoid possible delays in your CPE reporting.

CPE Monitor is a national collaborative service from NABP, ACPE, and ACPE providers that will allow licensees to track their completed CPE credit electronically.

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Reno, NV, office. Jeri will retire at the end of this year and is currently training the newly announced Board Coordinator, Shirley Hunting. After most recently being involved in the pharmacy benefit manager world, including support for both the Nevada State Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee and Drug Utilization Review Board, Shirley spent over 20 years in hospital pharmacy administration. Welcome Luis and Shirley!!

From the Board President

Call to Leadership

By Beth Foster, RPh, chief of pharmacy service, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, and president of the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy

As I reflect back over years in the practice of pharmacy and serving on the Board of Pharmacy, I continue to be amazed and impressed by the high level of dedication and professionalism from the pharmacists in Nevada. Pharmacy staff in all practice settings work extremely hard and do what it takes to help our patients receive the safest and most effective pharmaceutical care every day.

Three years ago, sitting in orientation for the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy as a new Board member, Dr Pinson instilled in me my role in patient and public safety as a pharmacist and a member of the Board. I realized how extremely demanding and serious this responsibility is each and every day for our profession.

Over the past several years, the Board has taken on various initiatives to educate health care professionals on the prevention of drug diversion to protect the citizens of Nevada. Partnerships with community organizations and law enforcement, to prevent prescription drug abuse, have expanded. The security of medications in Nevada pharmacies is a high priority. In addition, newer street drugs, synthetic cannabinoids, and "bath salts" are now Schedule I entities and ongoing efforts in this ever-changing realm continue. Electronic prescribing continues to expand, providing better access to health care. Inspections by Board staff now have a proactive educational component to prevent medication errors with pharmacies and pharmacy staff to ensure safety and world class care. The Pharmacy Hospital Regulations are being reviewed and updated to accurately reflect safe and appropriate care in all institutional settings. The Prescription Monitoring Program is expanding and currently partnering in a research study with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The challenge for all of us is to mentor and lead our students, residents, technicians, and young professionals in the goal of safe and effective medication management with the examples we set, the things we say, and the care we give to our patients. How do we do this?

Continue to be a lifelong learner by seeking out and participating in educational opportunities. Give your time to keep pharmacy professional organizations active and alive. Take the time to help shape the laws and regulations of Nevada by giving your input, volunteering on workgroups, attending Board meetings, as well as learning and understanding the legislative processes. Setting high expectations of the staff we oversee and helping them to achieve optimum patient care is vital. Opportunities abound in volunteering to educate the public about the best use of medications in schools, churches, rotary clubs, participating in national drug take-back initiatives, and many other venues.

Lastly, pharmacists need to practice at the highest level of the profession and continually push to be a part of all health care teams. Our level of expertise in safe medication use and public awareness on the importance of pharmacist involvement will continue to help provide great care to our patients and community.

Individuals dedicated to the practice of pharmacy in Nevada have the best interest of their patients in mind with every decision made in the delivery of pharmaceutical care. Challenge yourself to be the best pharmacist. **Lead,** mentor, and challenge others daily to give the best care to our patients.

The *Nevada State Board of Pharmacy News* is published by the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation, Inc, to promote compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of the Foundation or the Board unless expressly so stated.

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