



IMPORTANT MESSAGE CONCERNING HOUSE BILL 131

~ History and Facts Relating to MSPMP Usage by Pharmacists ~

The Mississippi Board of Pharmacy (MSBOP), for years, has served a vital role in the battle against opioid abuse, addiction and the diversion of controlled substances. Since 2005 the MSBOP has had the responsibility of the development and operation of the Mississippi Prescription Monitoring Program (MSPMP). We remain fully dedicated to the program and to its appropriate use.

The MSBOP holds an important role in Governor Bryant's Opioid and Heroin Task Force. Board member Larry Calvert continues to serve on the task force representing the pharmacy community. While the task force recommendations were being developed, the MSBOP began studying how pharmacy could better protect the public in its use of the MSPMP. As a result of that study, the Board voted in the fall of 2017 to propose regulatory changes that include mandated usage of the MSPMP **under certain circumstances**. Those regulations are now in the final stages of the Administrative Procedures process and will fully take effect in the next few weeks. It is important to note that the Board has wisely acted on this issue BEFORE the beginning of the 2018 Legislative Session.

Early in this Session, HB 131 was presented into the legislative process. HB 131 "**requires dispensers** and prescribers of prescription drugs to check the Prescription Monitoring Program database before dispensing or prescribing controlled substances and specified noncontrolled substance drugs...".

The Mississippi Board of Pharmacy believes HB 131 to be overly restrictive to daily pharmacy practice and will effectively and significantly affect the public health through the limitation of access to pharmacy services.

The document on the following page is being distributed at the legislature to inform them of the action already taken by the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy after thorough vetting and study of the issue.

Feel free to use this document as you discuss this issue with our State leaders.

Steve Parker
Deputy Director / Legislative Liaison

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF PHARMACY

6360 I 55 North, Suite 400, Jackson, Mississippi 39211
601-899-8880: Fax 601-899-8891



The Mississippi Board of Pharmacy (Board) has proposed a regulation amendment to Title 30, Part 3001: ARTICLE XLIII PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM. The proposed amendment changes the regulation so that the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is operated as provided for in Mississippi Code Annotated Section 73-21-127. The changes include mandatory review of the PMP by pharmacists based on certain circumstances prior to dispensing opioids. Specifically, the amendment provides in part:

1. Prior to dispensing a prescription for a Schedule II opiate, a pharmacist **shall** review the prescription monitoring program based on any of the following circumstances:
 - a. The patient is a new customer to that pharmacy; or
 - b. The patient has not had an opioid prescription filled at that pharmacy within six (6) months;
2. The prescription monitoring program shall be reviewed at least once every six (6) months for any patient receiving controlled substances.

This proposed regulation amendment has been submitted to the Occupational Licensing Review Commission (OLRC) and filed with the Secretary of State's Office for public comment. The Board met on January 18, 2018, and approved the proposed amendment as final. It will now be re-submitted to the OLRC for approval before filing the final regulation with the Secretary of State's Office.

This promotes the State policy of using the least restrictive regulation necessary to protect consumers from present, significant and substantiated harms that threaten public health and safety.