

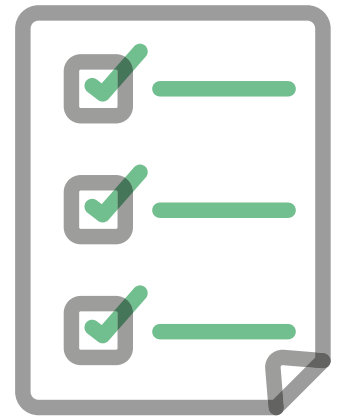


THE SCRIPT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF PHARMACY

COVID-19

Thank you all for checking your email and social media for messages from the Board of Pharmacy regarding COVID-19 procedures. We hope this communication has helped answer your questions throughout this ongoing situation. For more information and to stay up-to-date on any changes please continue to visit our website. We have set up a COVID-19 tab that houses all information we are sharing and we will continue to update as things change.



CHECK YOUR MSPMP DASHBOARD



Please continue to check your dashboard and email for any communication that may be sent through the MSPMP. The MSPMP Dashboard gives you access to quick links with a plethora of information pertaining to the PMP. Remember, when reporting to the MSPMP, zero reporting is required on the days you do not fill controlled substances. For guidance on error corrections and to help you be sure your errors are being corrected, please email pmpcompliance@mbp.ms.gov. Should you need changes made to your MSPMP profile, please send an email to mspmpassist@mbp.ms.gov.

WWW.MBP.MS.GOV

Our website is full of helpful information. From forms to regulations, stay current on things related to pharmacy in Mississippi.



ALL THINGS LICENSING

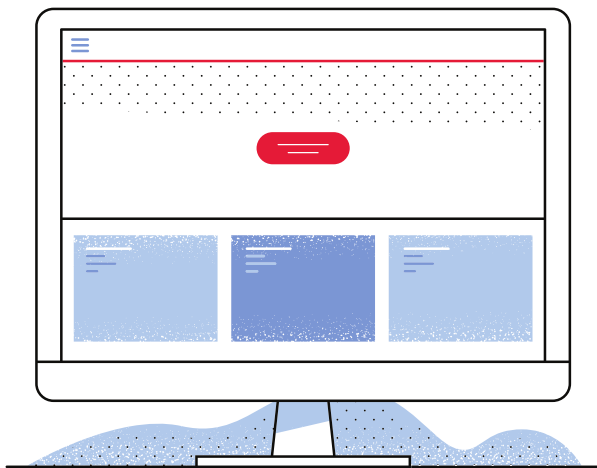
Reminder:

The Board granted the following extensions to those whose certification scheduled exams were cancelled due to Covid-19:

- expiration is set for May 31, 2020
- upon receipt of proof of certification expiration will be set to March 31, 2021
- if testing conditions change again due to Covid-19, the Board will adjust as well and notify the affected
- failure to pass the exam before the extended deadline will result in an "INACTIVE" status until certification proof is provided

The Portal is Now OPEN!

The Licensing Department is now accepting renewals for the **Medical Equipment Suppliers Permit** that will expire June 30, 2020. Keep an eye out for the email renewal reminder(s) as well as social media updates.



F.A.Q

Visit the Frequent Asked Questions section of our web site www.mbp.ms.gov to take advantage of a great resource for locating answers to questions and issues you may encounter. If you are unable to find an answer to a question that you have, please feel free to contact us via email at licensing@mbp.ms.gov.

Stay Up-to-Date

Don't be left out! Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for news, updates, and information related to Pharmacy.



ThoughtSpan

ThoughtSpan, the vendor selected to create a new licensing system for the Board, has begun working on our system. We anticipate this all inclusive platform to allow the user more control pertaining to applications, modifications to records, submission of documents, and many more capabilities available online. This will minimize the requirement of hard copy documents that the end user will need to submit manually to our office. Even transactions such as pharmacist-in-charge changes, designated representative changes, address changes for facility and individuals, employment/employee modifications, and so much more will be handled online. We look forward to keeping you updated as we navigate through this process.



Compliance Updates

Pharmacy Technician Renewals

Pharmacy Technicians should have renewed their registrations by March 31, 2020. Please verify that all pharmacy technician registrations are current, and if certification is required, verify that the certification is current. If a pharmacy technician registration was issued after April 1, 2011, certification is required. Please confirm that all technicians have a current registration and certification, if required. The Pharmacist in Charge is responsible for assuring that all personnel are properly registered or licensed with the Board. If a pharmacy technician is found performing technician functions with an Expired or Inactive status, this would be a violation of the pharmacy technician and the Pharmacist-in-Charge.

Compounding Certificate

Article XXXI 1. A.

Prior to engaging in the compounding of pharmaceuticals, a pharmacy shall obtain a compounding certificate from the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy.

- i. To obtain a compounding certificate, an applicant must complete a compounding certificate application.
- ii. A compounding certificate will expire when the pharmacy permit expires and can be renewed at the time a pharmacy permit is renewed.
- iii. Compounding, without obtaining the compounding certificate, shall be grounds for disciplinary action.
- iv. Every pharmacy that engages in compounding shall submit a compounding statistical report to the Board on or about January 31st of each year on a form prescribed by the Board. (Reporting shall begin January 2021 for calendar year 2020- [Compounding Report Form](#))
- v. Failure to submit the report as required by this regulation shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

Article XXXI 1. C.

For the purpose of this Article, the combining of commercially manufactured, ready-to-use products shall be exempt from USP 795 compounding standards under the following conditions:

- i. No more than four (4) commercially manufactured ready-to-use products (that have not been manipulated) are used;
- ii. All products used are FDA approved;
- iii. Compounding is not done in anticipation of medication orders;
- iv. Must follow USP 795 beyond use dates (BUDs);
- v. A valid prescription shall serve as the compounding record;
- vi. The prescription label shall comply with the labeling requirements as set forth in Article XIV of these regulations and also include: (1) Name of Preparation; (2) Strength and concentration of each component; (3) Beyond Use Date; (4) Special storage requirements, if applicable; and (5) Cautionary auxiliary labels, if applicable.

A pharmacy that obtains a compounding certificate should be engaged in compounding or preparing to engage in compounding. It is not necessary to obtain a compounding certificate to combine products using the exemption of USP 795 compounding standards above. (Article XXXI 1.C.)

Annual Controlled Substance Inventory

Every facility permitted by the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy shall take an annual inventory of all controlled substances on hand on or about May 1 but no later than May 15, however, **due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy is granting an extension until July 1** for the annual inventory.

Pharmacies that routinely conduct the annual inventory on a different date are expected to conduct the inventory during that same period this year.

A yellow spotlight beam originates from the top left corner, illuminating the title and the author's name. The beam is wider at the bottom where it hits the title and tapers towards the top.

Spotlight *on* Pharmacy Benefit Managers

By: Steve Parker, PBM Administrator /Deputy Director, Mississippi Board of Pharmacy

COVID-19 and PBMs:

Our ultimate priority is to the health of the public. In that effort, on March 14, 2020, the Board of Pharmacy published a resolution concerning prescription refills offering pharmacists additional options to care for your patients. Both President Trump and Governor Reeves have signed emergency declarations. We have reached out to PBMs to notify them of these steps. Discussions continue relating to early fill authorizations, co-pays, potential drug shortages, etc.

We must depend on you to notify us of PBM issues affecting your patients. Although we cannot resolve every issue, we are asking you to notify us of any new roadblocks you encounter in your practice relating to PBMs. Please email me at sparker@mbp.ms.gov should you encounter any issues. I will respond as soon as possible. Please include the specifics of the issue, along with your contact information. We will do everything possible to assist you.

Calm and focus should be the centerpiece of our response. Pharmacists continue to be the most accessible segment of healthcare in this country, and it is my honor to be associated with such caring and dedicated professionals.

HOUSE BILL 708: [As of April 7, 2020 the Mississippi Legislature has 'paused' the session due to COVID-19. This bill is still very important. Please continue in your outreach to legislators.]

In its current form, this bill offers much to improve the ability of pharmacies in Mississippi to care for their patients. As of this date, the bill has passed the House, and is now waiting on action in the Senate. I want to applaud all who have used their voices in communicating their support to legislators. I also want to applaud all our associations, but especially the Mississippi Independent Pharmacies Association (MIPA) for spearheading this important effort. Please continue to reach out and have your voices heard.

SCOTUS: [As of April 7, 2020, SCOTUS has postponed this hearing until a later date.]

The United States Supreme Court has announced it will hear oral arguments in *Rutledge v. PCMA*. The issue stems from Arkansas on whether the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit erred in holding that Arkansas' statute regulating pharmacy benefit managers' drug-reimbursement rates, which is similar to laws enacted by a substantial majority of states, is pre-empted by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, in contravention of the Supreme Court's precedent that ERISA does not pre-empt rate regulation. It is expected that SCOTUS will announce its ruling in June. This ruling has the potential to be the most important step in regulating PBMs that has occurred in 10 years.