



THE SCRIPT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF PHARMACY

New District 5 Board Member: Craig Sartin

New District 5 Board Member Craig Sartin officially took his oath of office at the July 21, 2022, Pharmacy Board Meeting. Board President Todd Barrett presided. Craig replaces former Board President, Larry Calvert. He will serve a five year term ending in 2027. To learn more about the experiences Craig brings to the board, visit [here](#). We look forward to working with Craig and congratulate him on his appointment.



September Board Meeting

Our next board meeting will be held on September 15, 2022, at the Board of Pharmacy office located at 6360 I-55 North Suite 400, Jackson, MS. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am.

Public Hearing for Proposed Regulations

The MS Board of Pharmacy will hold a public hearing on the following proposed regulations:
[Title 30, Part 3001, Article XLIX Shared Services](#)
[Title 30, Part 3001, Definitions](#)

The public hearing will be held at the offices of the MS Board of Nursing located at 713 South Pear Orchard, Suite 300, Ridgeland, MS 39157 on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, beginning at 9:00 am. Any person intending to speak at this hearing must notify the Board by September 7, 2022, in writing at 6360 I-55 North, Suite 400, Jackson, MS 39211 or by email to smccoy@mbp.ms.gov to be placed on the agenda.

SCAM Alert: Phishing and Impersonations

The Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA) Pharmaceutical Cargo Security Coalition (PCSC) recently released a new fraud alert that outlines some new methodologies that are being used to divert both small and large drug shipments. These schemes involve the impersonation of regulatory personnel, including individuals from state boards of pharmacy and departments of health. The attached alert outlines specific details about these latest iteration of schemes. Please call the office or your assigned agent if you have any questions. [Click here to read the latest details.](#)

ALL THINGS LICENSING

Durable Medical Equipment Supplier Renewals:

The 2023 DME Renewal period recently closed on June 30, 2022, but the Gateway will remain open to allow those who missed the deadline to renew. A \$100.00 late fee will apply. If you do not wish to renew and/or need to close the DME permit, please log into the Gateway and submit a permit close request. You will be required to upload supporting documentation regarding the closure request for staff approval.



Profile Changes

Any changes to your profile may be made by logging into the Gateway and submitting the desired change request at any time. For name changes, the system will allow you to make the request, you will need to upload the required documentation for staff approval. All employment and address changes can also be made via the Gateway. For assistance with the online system, contact our Licensing Division at (601) 899-8880.



Pharmacist Fill Up

Any request for duplicate wall certificates may be made by logging into your Gateway profile and submitting a duplicate certificate application request. There is a \$25 processing fee.

DON'T FORGET

We have phased out wallet cards and will no longer be mailing out decals. You can print your wallet cards from your Gateway profile.

Tech Bite

- The board has relaxed the requirement for national certification for pharmacy technicians for board registration. However, this does not supersede employment requirements.
- Upon issuance of your Mississippi pharmacy technician registration, you will need to register with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (www.nabp.pharmacy) at no charge to you. You will be assigned an NABP number.

Facility Highlight

- For DR changes, make sure to mail your fingerprint card to the address indicated on the instruction sheet as soon as possible. Failure to do so may result in expiration of your application. For assistance with the online system, contact our Licensing Division at (601) 899-8880
- Utilize the profile change option in the Gateway. Oftentimes a facility will submit a new application when it is not necessary.

Student Sidebar Chatter

The Student Extern/Intern Controlled Substance Registration expires six months from the prospective graduation date. Register with the Gateway to access your registration. Upon issuance of your Mississippi pharmacy intern/extern student registration, you will need to register with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (www.nabp.pharmacy) at no charge to you. You will be assigned an NABP number.



Spotlight on Pharmacy Benefit Managers

FTC Votes 5-0 to Study Effects of PBMs

The Federal Trade Commission announced that it will launch an inquiry into PBMs, requiring the six largest pharmacy benefit managers to provide information and records regarding their business practices. The agency's inquiry will scrutinize the impact of vertically integrated pharmacy benefit managers on the access and affordability of prescription drugs. As part of this inquiry, the FTC will send compulsory orders to CVS Caremark; Express Scripts, Inc.; OptumRx, Inc.; Humana Inc.; Prime Therapeutics LLC; and MedImpact Healthcare Systems, Inc. Click [here](#) for additional details.

Filing PBM Complaints

The MS Board of Pharmacy has the ability to regulate PBM payers outside of Medicaid and its contractors, and contractors of the MS State Health Plan. Certain aspects of Medicare drug plans are preempted by federal regulations. When filing a PBM complaint, please have the following:

- Copy of any adjudication message or other messaging from PBM
- Documentation of any submitted appeals and associated responses
- Copy of member drug insurance card (front and back)
- Wholesaler invoice if applicable
- Other relevant information may be required.

The complaint will be reviewed upon receipt and additional communication is likely. If the review appears consistent with a violation of state statute or regulation, the case will be presented to the Investigative Review Committee for next steps. Be advised that due process will be followed and that the Board cannot currently provide any assurances on potential retaliation.

PMP Update



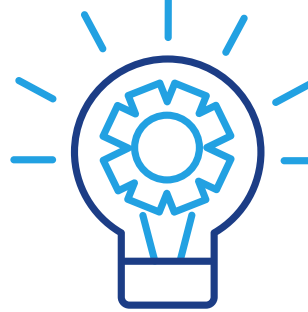
The MSPMP has been made aware that some email domains are blocking the password reset link. To assist with this, there is an option to add your private cell phone number to your account. You may send this request via email to msmpassist@mbp.ms.gov.

As a reminder to pharmacies that are eligible for a waiver of reporting to the MSPMP, paper versions are not accepted. PMP waivers are done electronically. Please notify the MSPMP directly in the event your permit is set to inactive or closed. Also, please notify the MSPMP directly should your pharmacy have a change of DEA number.

Reporting of controlled substances II-V and gabapentin is required every 24 hours. This includes zero reporting. All controlled substances II-V are to be reported with a valid DEA number. Should you need assistance with your reporting account for the MSPMP please contact 1-855-567-4767 and ask to speak to the clearinghouse.

Always call or email with any questions msmpassist@mbp.ms.gov 601-899-0138 or visit our website at www.pmp.mbp.ms.gov

Compliance Updates



CE Audits: Changes

We now gather documentation for our CE audits electronically. Beginning later this year, the CE audits will begin when license renewal season opens. When you launch your pharmacist renewal application, you will receive notification that you have been chosen for the CE audit for the prior full year. You will need to provide documentation of CE obtained from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 by uploading it to the gateway. No worries if you took part in the CE audit earlier this year which included those same dates. You will be excluded from the audit that will begin in September 2022 when license renewal season opens. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming changes to our CE audits, please reach out to us at 601-899-8880 or email us at compliance@mbp.ms.gov.

No Unauthorized Personnel

Pharmacists In Charge, please make sure that all pharmacy personnel are licensed or registered with the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy. Remember anyone stocking or pulling medications must be registered as a pharmacy technician. You may check license/registration status via License Verification on our website. (ARTICLE VII RESPONSIBILITY OF PHARMACIST-IN-CHARGE (PIC) 1. A- ".....The pharmacist-in-charge is responsible for assuring that all personnel are properly registered or licensed with the Board and that all pharmacy permits are current and appropriate for the type of pharmacy operation being conducted.....")

Did You Know? Losses and Thefts

- Before terminating an employee for cause (theft of pharmaceuticals, money, or merchandise), you must notify the Board (prior to the termination).
- The loss or suspected loss of controlled substances in the pharmacy or within your healthcare facility must be reported to the Board immediately.

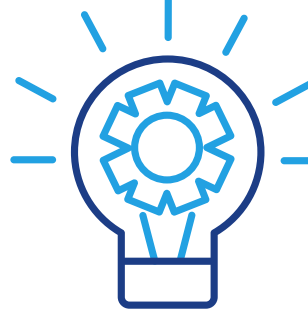
Pharmacist: Tech Ratio

One pharmacist on duty can supervise up to three technicians at a time. Pharmacy externs/interns are not included in this 3:1 ratio. Immunizing technicians are included in the count and so are inventory specialists. It is the responsibility of the pharmacist on duty to recognize if the ratio is out of compliance and take steps to correct it immediately. (Article VIII- Responsibility of Pharmacist/Pharmacist Care 1.C.5)

Have You Had a Change of Address? Employment? Name?

All licensees are required to provide a current address, current employer and correct name. If any of this information changes, it is the licensee's responsibility to notify the Board within ten days of the change. To make changes to any of this information, please log in to the Gateway.

Compliance Updates



FAQ: Medical Marijuana

Q: Can my pharmacy be a medical marijuana dispensary?

A: No, a pharmacy holds a DEA registration, and therefore under DEA regulations cannot be a marijuana dispensary since marijuana is classified federally as a Schedule I controlled substance. (Although some states within the United States have allowed the use of marijuana for medicinal purpose, it is the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that has the federal authority to approve drugs for medicinal use in the U.S. To date, the FDA has not approved a marketing application for any marijuana product for any clinical indication. Consistent therewith, the FDA and DEA have concluded that marijuana has no federally approved medical use for treatment in the U.S. and thus it remains as a Schedule I controlled substance under federal law. Go to www.dea.gov for more information.)

Q: Does the Board of Pharmacy issue permits/licenses for medical marijuana dispensaries?

A: No, the Board of Pharmacy does not license any entity in the chain associated with medical marijuana. The Mississippi Department of Health issues licenses for cannabis cultivation facilities, processing facilities, transportation entities, disposal entities, research facilities, and cannabis testing facilities. The Mississippi Department of Revenue issues licenses for medical cannabis dispensaries.

Q: I've heard that medical marijuana will be reported to the PMP. Is this true?

A: Yes, medical marijuana dispensaries will report dispensing information every 24 hours to the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). The information reported will include (but not be limited to) the qualified patient's registry card number and the amount dispensed to the patient.

Q: Where can I learn more about Mississippi's Medical Marijuana Program?

A: Check out the [MS Department of Health's Medical Cannabis page](#).

Stay Connected

