



ACTION ITEMS – April 2006 BOARD MEETING

The board meeting materials are on the Web site.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The board:

- Elected William Powers, public member as President, Ken Schell, Pharm.D. as Vice-President, and Ruth Conroy, Pharm.D. as Treasurer.
- Has recognized (since July 2005) 516 pharmacists who have been licensed for at least 50 years. These pharmacists were mailed an award certificate with a congratulatory letter. The board publicly acknowledged 2 pharmacists who attended the April meeting. The recognition will continue to be published in the board's newsletter, along with the list of recipients.
- Publicly recognized 19 additional pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who provided disaster response to the Gulf Coast storm victims.
- Reported on the annual meeting of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy held April 8-11, 2006, in San Francisco.
- Revised its strategic plan for 2006-2011.
- Received an update on that the implementation date for the iLicensing project that will provide for the on-line renewal of licenses, which will be March 2008.
- Reported that the Governor's proposed budget for 2006/07 will restore 2.5 of the 10 staff positions lost during the last five years. The board will seek restoration of the remaining 7.5 staff positions lost during the last five years.
- Announced the retirement of Supervising Inspector Dennis Ming effective July 1.
- Announced the meeting dates for 2007: January 31 - February 1, April 18 - 19, July 25 - 26, and October 24-25.
- Approved the minutes of the February 1 and 2, 2006 board meeting.

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The board:

- Reported that 9 consumer fact sheets that were developed by pharmacy students from UCSF, School of Pharmacy are available. The availability of these fact sheets will be announced in the next *The Script* and via subscriber alert. They will also be distributed at future health fairs attended by the board.
- Announced that four consumer brochures have been developed or revised.
- Announced that the California Health Communication Partnership will launch three campaigns for 2006. They are breast and prostate cancer screening awareness, generic substitution, and diabetes prevention.

- Heard a presentation from Tom Stopka from the Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, on SB 1159, that allows local health jurisdictions to authorize nonprescription syringe sales by pharmacies to prevent HIV and Hepatitis. The board committed at its last meeting to work collaboratively with the Office of Aids to educate pharmacists about this new law
- Noted that the revised “Notice to Consumers” has been mailed to all California pharmacies. The revisions were on the board’s new address and telephone numbers.
- Reported on the third subcommittee meeting on the Medicare Drug Benefit Plans to discuss the implementation of the Medication Prescription Drug Act, and specifically the Part D Benefit for prescription drugs. The changes, which began January 1, 2006, are an enormous change in the Medicare benefit program. The changes affect Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers as well as pharmacists, physicians, nurses and patient advocates. Since the program’s inception, there have been numerous problems reported that have resulted in patients being unable to obtain their needed medication. Representatives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services heard testimony from health advocates, patients and pharmacists about the issues related to coverage especially for dual eligible, long-term care patients and patients receiving home infusion services. These representatives also provided an overview of federal efforts to address these problems.
- Provided four presentations to students in pharmacy schools and three presentations to professional associations and regulatory groups. Participated in one consumer health event and one professional association annual meeting.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

The board:

- Considered a proposal from pharmacy students to modify current regulations to increase the number of intern hours from 600 to 1,000 hours that can be earned outside a pharmacy. This would change the minimum number of hours earned in a pharmacy to 500 hours. Currently, interns are required to earn a minimum of 900 hours in a pharmacy. The board delayed action on this proposal to its July board meeting.
- Approved the Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. (ACHC) and Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) as accreditation agencies for pharmacies that compound injectable sterile drug products. This approval is for 3 years.
- Approved the development of a regulation that would specify the application process and criteria to approve accreditation agencies for pharmacies that compound sterile injectable sterile drug products.
- Extended the waiver to December 31, 2006 to allow a technician to check a technician in the filling of unit-dose medication system in a hospital inpatient pharmacy for the study of “Evaluation of the Impact on Pharmacists in the Prevention of Medication Errors Associated with Prescribing and Administration of Medications in the Hospital Setting” by UCSF School of Pharmacy and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

- Reported on the pass rate for the California Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (CPJE). The overall pass rate for all candidates from October 1, 2005 – March 31, 2005 was 80 per cent. The overall pass rate for California graduates was 89 per cent.

ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

The board:

- Heard a presentation from Robert Celeste from EPCglobal regarding the status of pedigree standards. It is anticipated that EPCglobal will approve the standards for electronic pedigree messaging around October 2006.
- Was informed by the California Pedigree Coalition that it would submit to the board by July 1, its plan for implementation of the electronic pedigree requirement for prescription drugs.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

The board:

- Reported on the adopted regulation change to add 16 CCR § 1727.1 that would exempt an intern pharmacist's address from being available on the "Internet" is undergoing review by the Administration.
- Adopted the proposed regulation change to repeal 16 CCR § 1717(e) and to add 16 CCR § 1713 regarding the use of prescription drop boxes and an automated self-use delivery device for refill prescriptions. The board modified the proposed language, which will be noticed for a 15-day comment period. If no negative comments are received, the final rulemaking file for the proposed regulation change will be submitted to the Administration for review.
- Adopted a proposed regulation change to amend 16 CCR § 1793.7(b) and to add 16 CCR § 1793.8 that would allow a hospital inpatient pharmacy that has a clinical program to establish a program that would allow a specially trained pharmacy technician to check other pharmacy technicians filling floor stock, ward stock and unit dose cassettes. The final rulemaking file will be submitted to the Administration for approval.
- Approved an updated revision to the California Building Code related to pharmacies that compound sterile injectable drug products.
- Approved the addition of omnibus provision from MedImmune, Inc. related to the surety bond requirement exemption for manufacturers of biological products that hold a biologics license application
- Took a position on the following legislative proposals:
 1. AB 2408 (Negrete McLeod) – Board-sponsored legislation that will update the definition of pharmacy, nonresident pharmacy and the professional practice of pharmacy – Support
 2. AB 2583 (Nations)- Requires the board to create and provide to licentiates or licentiate's employers a sign informing patients that if a licentiate refuses to fill a prescription that the patient has a right to timely access to the prescribed drug or

device and how to file a complaint with the Board of Pharmacy - Oppose unless amended

3. SB 1475 (Senate Business and Professions and Economic Development Committee) – Contains board omnibus provisions - Support
4. SB1476 (Figueroa) – Extends the board’s sunset provision to 2010 and the effective date of the electronic pedigree requirement for prescription drugs to January 2008 - Support