



Georgia Board of Pharmacy *NEWS*

January 2024

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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Pharmacy Technician CE Requirements

On and after July 1, 2023, as a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her registration, a pharmacy technician must complete not less than twenty (20) hours of approved continuing education. (a) "Approved continuing education" means courses approved by the Board as described in Rule 480-3-.03. (b) One hour of C.E. is defined as 0.1 C.E.U. Each pharmacy technician in the State of Georgia must obtain 20 hours of continuing education or 2.0 C.E.U.'s per biennium for registration renewal. 1. Certificates documenting 20 hours of approved continuing education or 2.0 C.E.U.'s must be completed and date within the biennium. (c) During the technician's first registration cycle, 1. A

pharmacy technician registered during the first six (6) months of the biennium (January to June), shall be required to obtain 20 hours of C.E. 2. A pharmacy technician registered during the following twelve (12) months (July to June), shall be required to obtain 10 hours of C.E. 3. A pharmacy technician registered during the last six (6) months (July to December) of the biennium, shall be exempt from continuing education for that biennium only.

Just a heads up. Don't let it sneak up on you!

GEORGIA DRUGS AND NARCOTICS AGENCY UPDATE

Latest DEA security trends seen in Georgia

- Pharmacies in which the outside of the building is constructed of a material that can be cut through via a circular saw, tin snips, electric saw blades – metal or vinyl siding.
- The perpetrators are then performing the **low crawl** into the pharmacy. Motion detectors are not activating as their placement is too high to detect motion.
- CII's are the controlled substance of choice right now. If they are not behind locked doors (such as in an office) or in a substantial metal safe, they will find a way to get to them.
- Typically happens in the early hours between 1am -2am.
- If they have this type of building material that can be cut through – ensure their CII's are locked up in a secure area if possible.
- Please have all owners talk to their security companies to lower any motion detectors that are located up near the ceiling – they must be low enough to detect someone crawling on the ground.

- Make sure 1st phone call goes to DISPATCH and not the pharmacist/owner/PIC. These perpetrators can be in and out in less than 2 minutes.
- Consider outside motion detector(s) that will sense vibration, motion, movement outside and to the actual structure.
- Have all owners check their security systems at least quarterly. Call the security company, put the system in Test mode, activate all zones with motion, camera, contact switch, and panic button sensors. Call the security company back to ensure all zones have activated and remove from Test mode. If a zone is not operating properly, have the security company fix what is not working.
- If any have building constructed of this type of material, have them call their local law enforcement and ask for extra drive-byes during those early am hours.

Outgoing President's Message

It has been a privilege to serve as the President of the Board of Pharmacy in Georgia over the past year and I look forward to continuing to serve as a Board member now that President Page occupies that office. There are many people I'd like to thank regarding my time on the Board and serving as President. First, I am grateful to Governor Kemp and his staff for trusting me to represent our profession as a Pharmacy Board member. I am thankful for and want to acknowledge the Board staff including the Board attorneys, GDNA, and the executive staff. Finally, I want to thank my fellow Board members, both past and present for their friendship, counsel, and partnership as we collectively strive to have a positive impact on patient care in Georgia through the regulation we are responsible for.

In my first newsletter address, I summarized the concept of protecting, promoting, and preserving the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Georgia as "advocacy". As my term closes out, I want to expand on this concept of advocacy relative to the Board's responsibility by offering some practical applications. Again, the Board's responsibility is the regulation of pharmacists and pharmacies in Georgia in order to advocate for the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Georgia. In dissecting that responsibility, it is clear that our charge is to create, modify, and maintain effective regulation around the practice of pharmacy, which helps Protect the safety of citizens of Georgia. However, in order to Promote and Preserve the health and welfare of those same citizens, there must be innovation. Innovation is the driving force behind the solving of problems and is generated in the private sector. The Cambridge Dictionary defines innovation in this way: "A new idea or method." If it is in fact true that innovation in society is tied to the success of the act of Promoting and Preserving, I believe it is the responsibility of this Board to use its regulatory oversight in such a way that would allow for the most creative, proactive, and pioneering solutions to do so, within the boundaries of the laws we are subject to. Furthermore, I believe we should only be engaged in limiting that innovation through regulation when there are clear and present risks to the public health and welfare to the extent that regulation is necessary to protect the citizens of Georgia. In doing so, I believe the state of Georgia has the potential to set high standards for the practice of pharmacy and emphasize the importance of the profession by improving the outcomes of the patients it serves.

As 2024 begins, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve on this Board and I look forward to continuing to make progress under the leadership of President Page, Vice President Cordle, and the rest of the Board.

Michael Azzolin

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Vice President: Cecil Cordle
Dean Stone
Michael Brinson
Young Chang
Michael Azzolin
Michael Farmer
Consumer Member: Jim Bracewell

Public Board Meetings

February 14, 2024
March 6, 2024 (South University)
April 10 & 11, 2024
May 8, 2024
June 5, 2024
July 17, 2024 (UGA)
August 21, 2024 (PCOM)
September 18, 2024
October 16, 2024
November 6 & 7, 2024
December 18, 2024



Front Row: Michael Karnbach (Deputy Director GDNA), Young Chang (Board Member), Dean Stone (Board Member), Michael Azzolin (Board Member), Michael Farmer (Board Member), Jim Bracewell (Board Consumer Member), Brandi Howell (Board Staff), Max Changus (Attorney General Office)

Back Row: Dennis Troughton (Director GDNA), Cecil Cordle (Board Member), Chuck Page (Board Member), Mike Brinson (Board Member), Eric Lacefield (Board Executive Director), Kimberly Emm (Attorney General Office), Clint Joiner (Board Attorney)