

Iowa Board of Pharmacy

Published to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law.

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Des Moines, IA 50309-4688

Board Member Retires



Congratulations to pharmacist **Leman E. Olson** of Mason City, IA, who completed nine years on the Iowa Board of Pharmacy on April 30, 2009. The Board held a retirement dinner for Leman at the Azalea Restaurant in Des Moines on April 28 and presented him with a plaque commemorating his service to the state of Iowa. Leman served as chairperson of the Board

since May 1, 2007, and was also a member of the Board's rules committee. Leman was instrumental in guiding the Board through many changes in pharmacy regulations and in securing adequate funding and staffing for Board operations. The Board extends its sincere thanks to Leman for his many contributions and his nine years of dedicated public service.

New Board Member



Congratulations to pharmacist **Mark M. Anliker**, of Emmetsburg, IA, who was appointed to a three-year term on the Iowa Board of Pharmacy by Governor Chet Culver effective May 1, 2009. Mark is a 1980 graduate of Drake University College of Pharmacy and has been a licensed pharmacist in Iowa since July 24, 1980. He and his wife, pharmacist Barbara

F. Anliker, own and operate Mansmith Pharmacy and Northwest Iowa Compounding in Emmetsburg. Mark and Barbara have three children: Laura, Lynn, and Scott. Lynn graduated from Drake University College of Pharmacy in May 2009. Mark replaces board member Leman Olson. The Board welcomes Mark and looks forward to working with him.

Board Member Reappointed

Congratulations to pharmacist member **Susan M. Frey** of Villisca, IA, who was reappointed by Governor Culver to her second three-year term on the Board effective May 1, 2009. Sue is employed by Hy-Vee Pharmacy in Red Oak and also serves as a consultant pharmacist for several long-term care facilities.

Board Elections and Appointments

The Board has elected Vern Benjamin of Argyle, IA, as Board chairperson and Susan M. Frey of Villisca, IA, as Board vice chairperson. Chairperson Benjamin has appointed Board members Susan Frey, DeeAnn Wedemeyer-Oleson, and Ed Maier to the Board's rules committee.

Update on the Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program

The Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) became fully operational on March 26, 2009. Iowa pharmacies have reported all of their Schedule II, Schedule III, and Schedule IV prescription transactions to the PMP database back to January 1, 2008. As of May 5, 2009, a total of 1,172 registrations have been issued to authorized users. Of that number, prescribers constitute 62%, pharmacists 36%, and law enforcement or regulatory personnel 2%. These authorized users have made approximately 1,650 requests since March 26. As of May 5, the PMP provided immediate, auto-fulfilled information via the program's secure Web site to 1,127 queries received online from authorized practitioners. Approximately 100 requests had to be hand-processed by program administrators. Pharmacists and prescribers who utilize the PMP and identify cases of drug abuse or misuse may share that information with other pharmacists and prescribers who are providing health care to the patient in question. While pharmacists and prescribers may also share concerns with law enforcement, they may **not** provide any specific information that they have obtained from the PMP. Law

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NABP Seeking Pharmacists in All Practice Areas to Take Survey

The expertise of pharmacists in all areas of pharmacy practice is needed for an online survey NABP is conducting as part of a full pharmacy practice analysis. The survey, which is available at www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB2297C9ZRC3F, will run from April 1 to June 30, 2009. Survey results will furnish data necessary to update and validate the current North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX®) competency statements, which are scheduled to be revised and implemented into the 2010 blueprint.

NABP conducts a pharmacy practice analysis at least every five years in accordance with standard testing industry examination development and revision guidelines. The analysis allows NABP to ensure that the NAPLEX competencies are in line with the existing pharmacy practice standards and that they accurately reflect the current knowledge, skills, and abilities of entry-level pharmacists seeking licensure. Questions may be directed to custserv@nabp.net or 847/391-4406.

Teen Abuse of Prescription Medications: Curtailing a Growing and Dangerous Trend

Teen-targeted, antidrug campaigns have shifted focus to tackle the current culprit in teen drug abuse: prescription medications. The nonprofit Partnership for a Drug-Free America (Partnership), and government agencies such as the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) are using Web sites and televised public service announcements to educate parents and teens about the dangers of prescription drug abuse as well as prevention strategies. In support of such efforts, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) is taking steps to raise awareness among pharmacy stakeholders about the urgency of the issue, the benefits of prevention counseling for parents and teens, and support of local medication disposal programs.

A Trend with Deadly Consequences

The teen prescription drug abuse trend demands an assertive approach, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that unintentional drug poisoning from misuse of prescription drugs is now the second leading cause of accidental death in the United States. Further, according to the Drug Abuse Warning Network, emergency room visits for prescription medication abuse and “street drugs” are almost equal. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) studies reveal that more teens are trying prescription medications in order to “get high” than marijuana.

To complicate matters, a study done by the Partnership suggests that prescription drugs are not just replacing illicit drugs but instead appear to be an intermediate step in drug use. As one survey participant stated, “[T]aking pills made me much more open to taking x [ecstasy]. At a certain point, it just became another pill.”

Prescription Drugs of Choice for Teens

Pain relievers such as Vicodin® and OxyContin®, stimulants such as Adderall® and Ritalin®, and tranquilizers such as Xanax® and Valium® are the prescription medications most frequently abused by teenagers, the Partnership finds.

Putting the problem in perspective, SAMHSA studies from 2007 show that 2.1 million adolescents age 12 or older tried prescription medications for nonmedical uses – the same number that tried mari-

juana. Tranquilizers (1.2 million teens), cocaine (0.9 million teens), ecstasy (0.8 million teens), inhalants (0.8 million teens), and stimulants (0.6 million teens) were the next drugs most frequently chosen by teens for first time use. SAMHSA reports that, every day, 2,500 youths (age 12 to 17) abuse a prescription pain reliever for the first time. Among teens who have abused painkillers, nearly one-fifth (18%) used them at least weekly in the past year.

Teens are also abusing over-the-counter products such as cough/cold medications. According to a SAMHSA study, 3.1 million people aged 12 to 25 had tried cough or cold medications to get high in their lifetime, and almost 1 million had done so in 2005.

Why Teens Choose Prescription Medications

In surveys conducted by the Partnership, teens reported that they used prescription drugs to help them deal with problems, manage their lives, lower stress, and enhance performance, as well as to get high.

According to ONDCP’s 2008 report, *Prescription for Danger: A Report on the Troubling Trend of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse Among the Nation’s Teens*, teens think that using prescription medications to manage stress or get high is safer than using street drugs. Further, prescription medications are more easily available to teens than illicit drugs such as cocaine or ecstasy. Teens obtain medications from the medicine cabinet at home, through friends, or at friends’ homes.

While prescription drugs may be more readily accessible for teens, large numbers are combining these medications with alcohol and/or illicit drugs. For example, 49% of teens who abused painkillers reported using two or more other drugs, including alcohol (81%) and marijuana (58%), ONDCP reports. Further, the report notes, poisonings as a result of combining prescription and over-the-counter drugs have risen drastically.

Stemming the Growth of Prescription Drug Abuse

In response to this growing problem, organizations and government agencies recommend educating both parents and teens about the dangers of prescription drug abuse, and modifying and encouraging the use of prescription medication disposal programs.

At its 104th Annual Meeting in May 2008, NABP passed a resolution that stipulates use of its newsletter programs to keep pharmacists and other constituents informed about the urgent issue of teen prescription drug abuse, so that they in turn can help to provide parents and teens with current prevention information. Such educational efforts are vital, as the Partnership reports that most parents do not realize that teens are intentionally abusing medications to get high, and that they think their teens are not vulnerable to prescription drug abuse. Further, the Partnership finds that, like many teens, parents tend to think that teen abuse of prescription medications is safer than teen abuse of street drugs.

Organizations such as the Partnership aim to educate parents and teens directly, informing them about the abuse trend, and emphasizing the necessity of using prescription medications appropriately.

Knowledge of this information is important to pharmacists since they are in an excellent position to counsel parents on teen drug abuse when dispensing prescriptions with high abuse potential.

Phil Bauer of the Partnership stated in his presentation at the NABP 104th Annual Meeting: “We need to reach out and empower parents, give them the information they need. Parents talking to kids reduces drug use by 50%.” Similar to past drug prevention programs that



focused on illicit drugs, Bauer and the Partnership encourage parents to communicate with their kids about prescription drug abuse and its dangers. Likewise, ONDCP reports that when parents express strong disapproval of drug abuse, teens are much less likely to adopt this dangerous behavior.

Another immediate step parents can take, the Partnership advises, is safeguarding the medications kept in their homes. Safeguarding involves properly disposing of unused and expired medications, and taking an inventory of all current medications. Further, parents can keep medications stored in an area that is not readily accessible to teens or their friends.

To raise awareness among families and the public, the Partnership, along with ONDCP, launched a media campaign using their Web sites as well as televised public service announcements aired during the 2008 Super Bowl. The Partnership Web site provides a list of facts parents can stress to teens. The Web site states: "The Partnership is urging parents, both through this new campaign and through our online resources and information to learn about this serious problem, share the information with their teens, and take action to prevent teens from accessing these medications at home."

More information and resources are available on the Partnership Web site at www.drugfree.org.

Health Care Consumers: Essential Partners in Safe Medication Use



This column was prepared by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP). ISMP is an independent nonprofit agency that analyzes medication errors, near misses, and potentially hazardous conditions as reported by pharmacists and other practitioners. ISMP then makes appropriate contacts with companies and regulators, gathers expert opinion about prevention measures, and publishes its recommendations. To read about the risk reduction strategies that you can put into practice today, subscribe to ISMP Medication Safety Alert!® Community/Ambulatory Edition by visiting www.ismp.org. ISMP is a Federally Certified Patient Safety Organization, providing legal protection and confidentiality for submitted patient safety data and error reports. ISMP is also a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) MedWatch partner. Call 1-800-FAIL-SAF(E) to report medication errors to the ISMP Medication Errors Reporting Program (MERP) or report online at www.ismp.org. ISMP address: 200 Lakeside Dr, Suite 200, Horsham, PA 19044. Phone: 215/947-7797. E-mail: ismpinfo@ismp.org.

A study in the September 10, 2007 *Archives of Internal Medicine* found that a significant percentage of American consumers may not be using their medications safely.

Between 1998 and 2005 alone, there was a 360% increase in deaths attributed to consumers using medications incorrectly at home (not involving alcohol or street drugs).

Proactive communication between pharmacists and patients is a major way to reduce the risk of medication errors.

However, there are barriers to patients communicating with pharmacists about the drugs they are taking, including limited time for speaking with patients and lack of appropriate written materials.

Pharmacists should explore ways to make suitable written materials on medications readily available. Be sure to seek feedback from patients (eg, through focus groups and targeted satisfaction survey questions) to ensure that written materials effectively communicate the most important information.

Management support for widespread education is essential to ensure effective use of electronic resources as well as dedicated time to talk with patients.

Many pharmacists assume that their patients can read, understand, and act on instructions on medication labels and in medication information pamphlets. But although 90 million Americans read below the 5th grade level, 98% of the medication information sheets accompanying dispensed prescriptions are written at a 9th to 12th grade level or higher.

Poor health literacy can lead to consumers misusing and making mistakes with their medications. Adults with low health literacy:

- ◆ Are less likely to adhere to prescribed treatment and self-care regimens
- ◆ Make more medication or treatment errors

Children are particularly vulnerable to medication misuse. One study has demonstrated that parents give their children an incorrect dose of over-the-counter fever medicine 47% of the time. Other recent studies have shown that educating parents on how to measure and administer the correct dose of medication for their children can prevent serious errors.

When dispensing pediatric medication, involve the child's parents and demonstrate correct measurement and administration techniques when possible. Emphasize the importance of using an appropriate measuring device (the original product dropper or dosing cup, or proper type of syringe), not a household spoon.

The Internet has opened a whole new avenue for consumers to obtain information on how to use their medications. Americans spend a large portion of time online searching for advice about health and safety. According to the 2007 *Preventing Medication Errors*, the percentage of adults who have sought health information online grew from 27% (54 million) in 1998 to 53% (117 million) in 2005.

But the report found that while there is an abundance of Internet-based health information, the quality of that information is variable.

ISMP maintains links to leading patient safety entities and information on its Web site, www.ismp.org, and recently launched a consumer-focused Web site that provides even more specific medication safety information. Visit the new site at www.ConsumerMedSafety.org. ISMP allows and encourages all state board Web sites to link to this new consumer patient safety Web site.

FDA Expands Warning to Consumers about Tainted Weight Loss Pills

On January 8, 2009, FDA expanded its nationwide alert to consumers about tainted weight loss pills that contain undeclared, active pharmaceutical ingredients. On December 22, 2008, FDA warned consumers not to purchase or consume 28 different products marketed for weight loss. Since that time, FDA analysis has identified 41 more tainted weight loss products that may put consumers' health at risk. The complete list of drugs is available on the FDA Web site.

enforcement and regulatory agencies have indirect access to the PMP. They must submit subpoenas, warrants, or other judicial documents to program administrators to obtain information. As of May 5, program administrators have processed 25 such queries. The Board encourages Iowa pharmacists and prescribers to register for program access if they have not already done so. To register, please visit <https://pmp.iowa.gov/IAPMPWebCenter/> and click on the following link: "Not a User ? Register to become a User." Questions or concerns should be directed to program administrators Terry Witkowski or Debbie Jorgenson at 515/281-5944 or via e-mail at terry.witkowski@iowa.gov or debbie.jorgenson@iowa.gov.

Fifty-Year Pharmacists

The Board congratulates the following 17 Iowa pharmacists who were originally licensed in 1959, have continuously maintained their Iowa pharmacist license, and have devoted a half-century of service to the public and the profession:

- Myrna H. Baird Urbandale, IA
- Kirby A. Drawbaugh Renton, WA
- Harold E. Duncan Shenandoah, IA
- Keith E. Glenn Fredericksburg, IA
- Kenneth W. Gerdes LeMars, IA
- Jerome L. Hammes Spirit Lake, IA
- Kenneth Kunce Falls City, NE
- Landon C. Larsh Alabaster, AL
- Janet R. Metcalf Leon, IA
- Alan L. Russett Fairbank, IA
- James W. Roemen Rock Rapids, IA
- Rodney G. Simon Boise, ID

- James P. Theis* Clinton, MO
 - Phillip R. Tuetken Monticello, IA
 - Richard J. Woods Freeport, IL
 - Marion E. Williams Des Moines, IA
 - Jeanette K. Wright Moses Lake, WA
- *Former Board inspector and chief investigator

Board Meeting Calendar

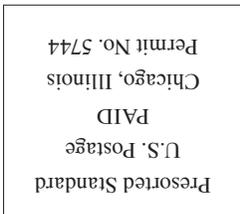
The following meeting dates have been set for future Board meetings:

- ◆ June 1-3, 2009
- ◆ July 21-22, 2009
- ◆ September 22-23, 2009
- ◆ November 17-18, 2009

Dates are subject to change. All meetings will be held at the Board office in Des Moines, IA. Please visit the Board's Web site at www.state.ia.us/ibpe or call 515/281-5944 to confirm meeting dates.

The *Iowa Board of Pharmacy News* is published by the Iowa Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation, Inc, to promote voluntary compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of the Foundation or the Board unless expressly so stated.

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