

SC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LICENSING, & REGULATION – BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

Welcome Dr Kayce Shealy, the Board's New Executive

We welcomed new Board Executive/ Chief Drug Inspector Dr Kayce Shealy on January 2, 2025. She received her bachelor of science degree from Newberry College and her doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of South Carolina. After completing a community pharmacy residency with the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy and Barney's Pharmacy in Augusta, GA, Dr Shealy joined the founding faculty at Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy in Clinton, SC. She has served in several administrative roles

at the school of pharmacy, including department chair, acting dean, and associate dean for academic affairs. She has been an advocate for the profession through service in various capacities with state and national professional pharmacy organizations. Dr Shealy is also board certified in pharmacotherapy and is a certified diabetes care and education specialist. She is excited to start this journey with the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation (LLR) – Board of Pharmacy.

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Board 2025 Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet on the following dates in 2025:

- March 26
- June 18-19
- September 24-25
- November 19-20

Barring exceptional circumstances, these meetings will be live streamed at <https://llr.sc.gov/bop/videos.aspx>.

SC Pharmacist License Renewal Approaching

As a reminder, here are the continuing education (CE) requirements:

- Fifteen hours per license year (May 1-April 30).
- At least seven-and-a-half hours must be in drug therapy or patient management.
- One hour must be in controlled substance monitoring.

Key points to know regarding CE hours:

- All hours must be Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education-accredited or continuing medical education Category 1.
- There is no requirement for live/in-person hours.
- There is no code designation for “controlled substance monitoring,” so this will be evaluated by the title and objectives of the program.
- Immunizing pharmacists must have one hour of immunization education.
- Pharmacists who dispense or administer contraceptives (through the Pharmacy Access Protocol) must have one hour of contraception education.
- Excess hours can “carry over,” but make sure to document which sessions are applied for which year.

The license renewal process is online, so please ensure that LLR has your up-to-date email contact information.

A random audit is performed on licensees to verify CE.

Key points to know regarding the CE audit:

- A list of licensee names and numbers is submitted to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® for verification.
- Any licensees who do not pass this submission (eg, all hours are not documented in their e-profile) will be contacted by email for additional documentation. **Do not ignore these emails!**
- Until verification of all CE requirements is received by the Board, you are not qualified to practice pharmacy in South Carolina and may be subject to discipline by the Board. If you did not complete the required CE, you are subject to administrative suspension of your license. In certain circumstances, you may be afforded the option of signing a consent agreement to assist you in obtaining the necessary qualifications to resume practice without administrative suspension. The consent agreement typically includes the following: providing documentation of 15 hours of CE to cover the previous licensure period (total of 30 hours for the next renewal period), taking the Board’s reciprocity course, being assessed a \$250 fine, and receiving a public reprimand that is reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
- If there is evidence that you violated the South Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act (eg, engaged in application fraud by misrepresenting that you completed CE), a separate disciplinary complaint may be filed against you, which would result in an investigation and possibly a Board hearing and disciplinary action taken against your license.
- Recent graduates are not held to CE requirements at their first renewal.



PREP Act Extension and the SC Vaccine Protocol

On December 11, 2024, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) coverage through December 31, 2029, effective January 1, 2025.

Despite the public health emergency for COVID-19 ending on May 11, 2023, HHS has determined that there remains a credible risk that COVID-19 may pose another public health emergency in the future. This extension aims to prepare for and mitigate that risk.

In response to the previous expiration date of the PREP Act, the South Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 3988 to expand the scope of practice for appropriately qualified pharmacists,

interns, and technicians to provide vaccinations pursuant to the South Carolina Vaccine Protocol. With a new PREP Act extension, the Board is receiving questions about how the extension impacts the provisions of H3988.

The PREP Act only permits pharmacists and properly trained and supervised pharmacy interns and technicians to administer: 1) the seasonal influenza vaccine, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends to persons ages three years and older under ACIP's standard immunization schedule, and 2) Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized or FDA-licensed

COVID-19 vaccines. To provide **any** other vaccination pursuant to the protocol, full compliance with the training, supervision, and qualifications in the protocol must be followed. Non-state-certified pharmacy technicians are most likely to be influenced by the PREP Act extension because it permits them to continue administering flu and COVID-19 vaccinations, but unless they are registered with the Board as a vaccination provider, as required by SC Code Annotated §40-43-190(B)(4)(b)(ii), they are unable to administer any other vaccinations included in the protocol. To review the qualifications for Vaccination Provider Registration, visit <https://llr.sc.gov/bop/PFORMS/Vaccination-Provider-Registration.pdf>.

Current State of DSCSA: Board Compliance

The Board has decided to require pharmacies to have a policy and procedure on how to identify and handle suspect or illegitimate

products for compliance with the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA). All permitted entities will attest to compliance with DSCSA

upon renewals. More guidance can be found on the Board's website.

Naloxone Resource From SC Department of Public Health

If you have a patient who is unable to afford their naloxone prescription, naloxone via protocol, or an over-the-counter naloxone product, we provide a free resource at various locations across the state through our community distributor network.

A community distributor is a public or private organization that provides free naloxone to patients in need. Patients do not need a prescription and can walk in to receive free

naloxone. For a list of nearby community distributors by county, please scan the QR code below. To filter by a specific county, type the county name into the search bar.

URL for QR code, if needed:

<https://dph.sc.gov/diseases-conditions/substance-use-prevention-resources/naloxone-community-distributors?type=QR&camp=initiative&loc=billboarddigital>.



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