

STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION MAINE BOARD OF PHARMACY 35 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0035

> Anne L. Head, Esq. Commissioner Geraldine L. Betts

April 10, 2023

Dear Licensee:

The Maine Board of Pharmacy wishes to advise you of your responsibility to cooperate with Board investigators and upon their request to provide records to those investigators. Each Boardlicensed pharmacist and pharmacy has an obligation to comply with the Board's requests for information in a timely fashion independent of their employer's policies or directions. The Board's investigative authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- The Board's, or its authorized investigator's, authority includes the "inspection during business hours of all pharmacies [and other facilities listed]... in which drugs or medicines are manufactured, stored, distributed, compounded, dispensed or retailed in this State." 32 M.R.S. §13721(1)(D)
- 2) The Board and its investigators "may investigate and gather evidence concerning alleged violations of this Act or of the rules of the Board." 32 M.R.S. § 13723(7).
- 3) The Board or its investigators may "remove from any [premises listed in 32 M.R.S. §13721] certain original records relating to scheduled or controlled substances, including but not limited to prescription records, shipping and delivery records, patient profiles, inventories and other drug records." 32 M.R.S. §13723(7).
- 4) The Board's Retention of Records rule chapter (Chapter 24) requires all <u>pharmacists</u> and all <u>pharmacies</u> to produce records they are required to retain to the investigator when requested as follows:
  - a. Records for the most recent 12 months must be provided immediately.
  - b. Older records **must be provided within <u>3 business days</u>** consistent with the Board's rules.

A pharmacist working in a pharmacy has a separate and independent obligation to provide information and records when requested.

Failure to comply with this rule of the Board will result in a complaint being filed against a pharmacist's and / or pharmacy's license, pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(5) for

Licensing (207)624-8620 Main Receptionist (207)624-8603 Hearing Impaired/TTY MAINE RELAY 711 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER www.maine.gov/professionallicensing

OFFICE LOCATION: GARDINER ANNEX 76 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE failure to comply with a board rule. Consistent with the Board's authority, licensees may be subject to discipline for each failure to comply, including, imposition by the Board of a warning, censure, or reprimand against, or a suspension or revocation of, their license, and the imposition of a civil penalty up to 1,500.00 for each violation, or other discipline permitted by section 8003(5-A)(A)(5).

Sincerely,

EDWARD J. KANE, President Maine Board of Pharmacy