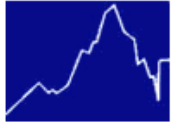


From: Virginia Board of Pharmacy [<mailto:pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 11:52 AM
Subject: Required CE Topic for 2017, Employment Opportunity, Drug Interactions



Virginia Department of Health Professions



December 20, 2016

[Board of Pharmacy](#)


Dear Pharmacist:

This announcement contains important information regarding a continuing education requirement for all pharmacists in 2017, an employment opportunity with the Enforcement Division, and a reminder regarding the importance of pharmacists identifying drug-drug interactions and taking appropriate action.

1. Pursuant to §54.1-3314.1(J) of the Code of Virginia and to address Virginia's opioid abuse crisis, which the Health Commissioner recently declared a public health emergency, the Board of Pharmacy determined at its December full board meeting that all pharmacists must obtain at least one hour of continuing education (CE) in 2017 in any of the following subject areas: proper opioid use, opioid overdose prevention, or naloxone administration. The one-hour minimum requirement is part of the required 15 hours of CE that must be obtained during 2017 and is not in addition to the required 15 hours. This is a one-time requirement; further action of the Board would be required to mandate CE in a specific topic in future years. This requirement applies only to pharmacists, not pharmacy technicians.

Please note that this requirement does not identify specific objectives that must be included in your selected CE program, nor has a list of approved CE programs been identified from which you must choose. The requirement is intended to be general to allow each pharmacist the flexibility in choosing an appropriate CE program that focuses on the proper use of opioids, opioid overdose prevention or naloxone administration. The CE must be obtained between January 1 and December 31, 2017.

2. The Department of Health Professions (DHP) is pleased to announce a Part-time (Wage) opportunity for a professional Pharmacist to join the DHP Enforcement Inspection Team, for the Tidewater/Central Region of Virginia. To view the position announcement visit the [Commonwealth of Virginia Job Search Website](#) and choose "Dept of Health Professions" under "Agency" for the search criteria. DHP will accept applications prior to the January 6, 2017 closing date. Please direct all communications to the contact contained in the posting found in the above link.

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3. It is critical that pharmacists identify drug-drug interactions, communicate with the prescriber, and counsel patients, as appropriate. Failing to do so can create serious harm and be life threatening for patients. Please recall that §54.1-3319 of the Code of Virginia states, “A pharmacist shall conduct a prospective drug review before each new prescription is dispensed or delivered to a patient or a person acting on behalf of the patient. Such review shall include screening for potential drug therapy problems due to therapeutic duplication, drug-disease contraindications, drug-drug interactions, including serious interactions with nonprescription or over-the-counter drugs, incorrect drug dosage or duration of drug treatment, drug-allergy interactions, and clinical abuse or misuse.” Further §54.1-3320 restricts the following acts to a pharmacist or pharmacy intern that is directly monitored by a supervising pharmacist: “The review of a prescription, in conformance with law and current practices in pharmacy, for its completeness, validity, safety, and drug-therapy appropriateness, including, but not limited to, interactions, contraindications, adverse effects, incorrect dosage or duration of treatment, clinical misuse or abuse, and noncompliance and duplication of therapy.”

Thank you.
Virginia Board of Pharmacy