



Alaska Board of Pharmacy

Justin Ruffridge PharmD

Lisa Sherrell PDMP

**Leif Holm, PharmD
Vice-Chair**



Disclosures

Justin Ruffridge

- I have no relevant financial relationships with the organizer of today's event.
- Director of Pharmacy for Inlet Pharmacy Group
- Member of the Alaska Pharmacist's Association.



Disclaimer

This is not a Board of Pharmacy meeting.

Any attendee feedback does not represent your official position to the Board of Pharmacy and is not recorded as communication to the Board.

To express your official position or feedback you may do so

- 1) during public comment of a publicly noticed Board of Pharmacy meeting;
- 2) Email sent to the Board; or
- 3) Communication sent to the Board via a carrier.



Disclaimer

If the regulation(s) presented in this CE are current and active they will be represented with their actual regulation number, i.e. 12 AAC 52....

Otherwise, all regulations presented during this continuing are meant to provide an update on what the Board is working on. Regulations are not effective until they have gone through the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) process to become published law.



Goals and Objectives

- To review the current composition of the Board of Pharmacy.
- To review potential legislative action this year.
- To review regulatory changes made this year.
- To review regulatory projects that the board is currently working on.
- Questions & Answer



Board & Support

- Board of Pharmacy members
 - 2 public members:
 - Sharon Long – Anchorage [3/1/22]
 - Tammy Lindemuth – Anchorage [3/1/21]
 - 5 pharmacists
 - Richard Holt – Eagle River [3/1/20*]
 - Leif Holm – Fairbanks [3/1/23]
 - Lana Bell – Anchorage [3/1/22]
 - James Henderson – Soldotna [3/1/21]
 - Justin Ruffridge – Soldotna [*]
- Executive Administrator
 - Laura Carrillo, MPH
- Licensing Examiner
 - Heather Noe
- PDMP Manager:
 - Lisa Sherrell

* Has been appointed by the Governors office & awaiting legislative confirmation.



2020 Regulatory Changes

Theme of this year?

Pandemic Response



2020 Regulatory Changes

12 AAC 52.060 Fire or other disaster

- Added section d:
 - Defined the term “other disaster” as any disaster situation that causes a pharmacy the need to move to a temporary location or results in damage to the drug or device inventory
- Rationale
 - Early reports of pharmacies closing to sanitize due to workplace COVID infections and the need to support a potential move to a temporary site.
- Emergency regulation effective April 3rd 2020
- Permanent regulation adopted August 30th 2020



2020 Regulatory Changes

12 AAC 52.210 Pharmacist duties

- Amended (1):
 - Added language to read: receiving an oral prescription drug order **from a practitioner or authorized agent of a practitioner**
- Added (8)
 - Administer a prescription drug order in accordance with the prescriber's order
- Rationale
 - Updated language ensure the regulatory framework supported agents of a practitioner (particularly if a practitioner was in quarantine) to be able to continue therapies for patients.
 - To put into regulation the ability of pharmacists to engage in medication administration if called upon to do so.
- Emergency regulation effective April 3rd 2020
- Permanent regulation adopted August 30th 2020



2020 Regulatory Changes

12 AAC 52.220(e)(3) Pharmacy Interns

- Repealed: (e) A Pharmacist supervising a pharmacist intern:
 - (3) Shall physically review prescription drug orders and the dispensed product before delivery of a product to the patient or the patient's agent.
- Rationale
 - Since (4) of this section already states that a pharmacist supervising an intern is responsible for the work of the intern, this section added an unnecessary barrier to a supervising pharmacist allowing an intern to verify a prescription.
- Emergency regulation effective April 3rd 2020
- Permanent regulation adopted August 30th 2020



2020 Regulatory Changes

12 AAC 52.230(a)(2) Pharmacy technicians

- Repealed: (a) The following persons must be licensed as a pharmacy technician
 - (2) A supportive staff member assigned to work in the dispensing area of a pharmacy [INCLUDING A CASHIER OR A BOOKKEEPER]
- Rationale
 - Given the rapidly evolving pandemic response and the necessity to keep pharmacies operational, this section presented a barrier to hiring cashiers to help staff pharmacies if needed.
- Position Statement
 - This section still poses questions for many retail pharmacies. In light of that, the board has published a position statement on this subject and can be found at the board website.
- Emergency regulation effective April 3rd 2020
- Permanent regulation adopted August 30th 2020



2020 Regulatory Changes

12 AAC 52.235 Pharmacy technician with national certification

- A new regulation to give framework to the role technicians with national certification may have in pharmacies.
 - Perform final checks of non-controlled substances as long as a pharmacist as completed a drug regimen review
 - Certain software/hardware requirements must be met
 - Transfer a non-controlled prescription drug order



2020 Regulatory Changes

12 AAC 52.235 Pharmacy technician with national certification

- Clarify or obtain missing information on a non-controlled prescription.
 - Documentation must include:
 - Result
 - Initials of the technician
 - Name of the agent spoken to
 - Date of the call
- Rationale
 - Utilizing pharmacy technicians in a greater capacity has been a priority of the Board for some time. Knowing the expanded roles pharmacists would be serving, the expansion of the duties of technicians needed to follow suit.
- Emergency regulation effective April 3rd 2020
- Permanent regulation adopted August 30th 2020



2020 Regulatory Changes

12 AAC 52.470 Refills

- Multiple changes made to this section.
 - Repealed (a) and (b) to allow for greater capacity of dispensing later in this section
 - Amended (d) to allow a pharmacist or intern to dispense any quantity of a non-controlled substance as long as the total quantity did not exceed the allowable amount prescribed.
 - Added (g) and (h) to allow for continuation of therapy (COT)
 - Existing, chronic, non-controlled substances may continued to be dispensed if the total quantity initially prescribed has been exhausted and the prescriber cannot be reached.
 - Pharmacist must reduce the the order to a written order with all the same information, document the words continuation of therapy (COT) or something similar
 - Not dispense more than a 120 day supply in this way
- Rationale
 - Certainly patients running out of medications posed a grave concern early in the pandemic and this was a response to that issue.
- Emergency regulation effective April 3rd 2020
- Permanent regulation adopted August 30th 2020



2020 Regulatory Changes

Other Changes

- 12 AAC 52.300 License Renewal
- 12 AAC 52.446 Shared Pharmacy Services during an emergency
- 12 AAC 52.480 Labeling
- 12 AAC 52.490 Prescriptions by electronic transmission
- 12 AAC 52.500 Transfer of a prescription drug order
- 12 AAC 52.510 Substitution



2021 Potential Regulatory Changes

12 AAC 52.855 Registration with the PDMP

- Public comment ended February 11th at 4:30pm
- Potential change would adopt a timeframe for mandatory registration with or application of exemption for the state PDMP.
 - Timeframe proposal is 30 days of licensure or registration with the DEA.



February Meetings

- **The Board of Pharmacy will be meeting February 18th and 19th.**
- **BY ZOOM OF COURSE!**
- **Public comment is always encouraged.**



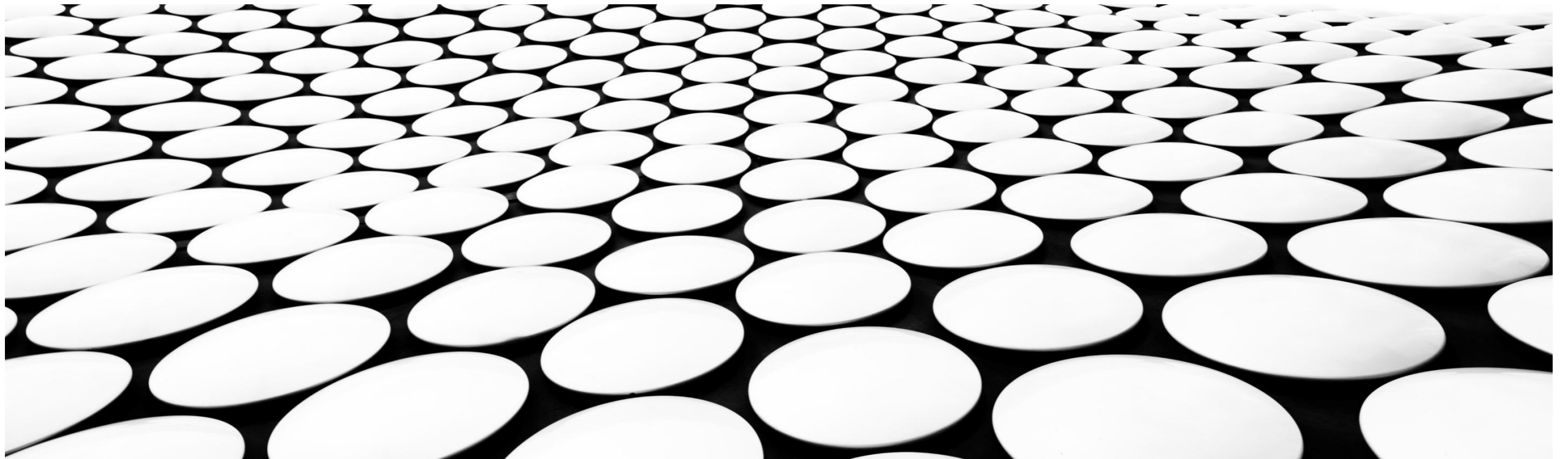
Potential Legislative Actions

- Alaska Pharmacist Association projects
 - Pharmacist/Pharmacy Mobilization Bill
- PDMP
 - Veterinary board request to be removed
 - Future PDMP amendments based on local provider indictments

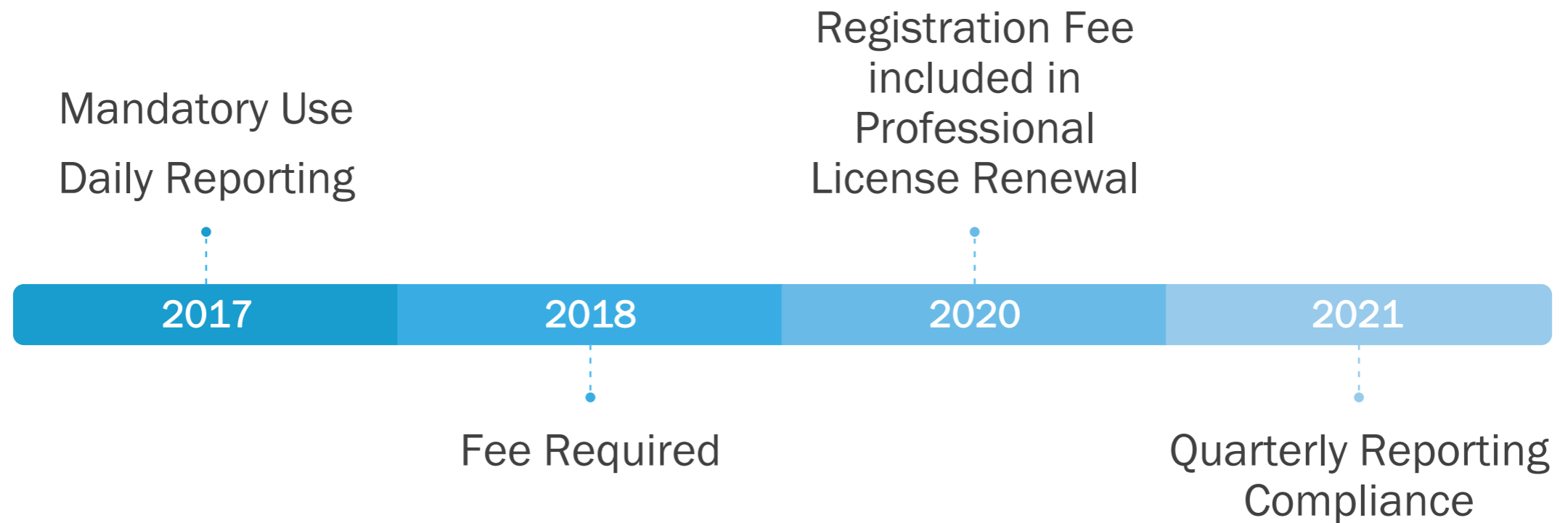
AK PDMP UPDATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

LISA SHERRELL, PDMP MANAGER



PDMP REQUIREMENTS: REGISTRATION, REVIEW, AND REPORT



REGISTRATION

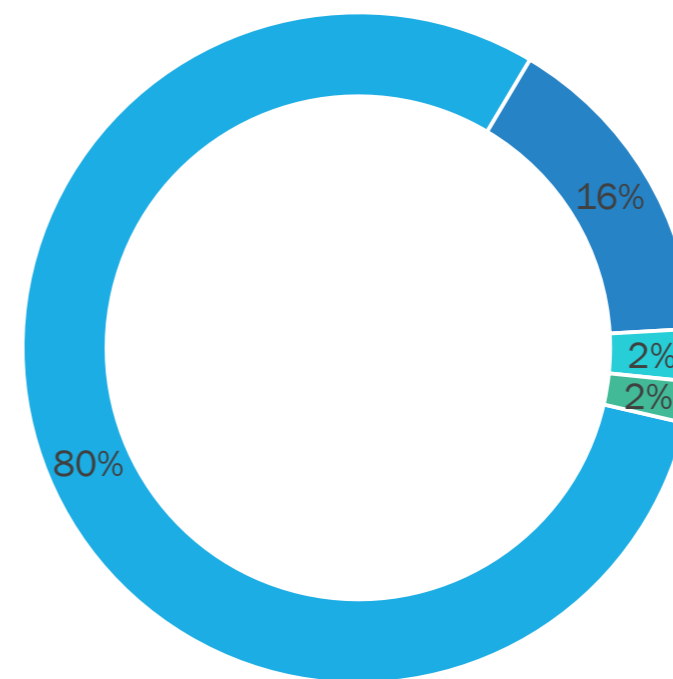
17.30.200(d)(4)

Pharmacists dispensing in Alaska are required to register and pay the user fee

Out of State pharmacists are exempt if they are not dispensing in or distributing to Alaska, but are permitted access

VA, Military, and IHS pharmacists are required to register if they are licensed under AS 08.80

2021 REGISTRATION



■ Pharmacist ■ IHS Dispenser ■ VA Dispenser ■ Military Dispenser

REVIEWING

Pharmacists are exempt from reviewing requirements prior to dispensing federally scheduled II – IV controlled substances

2020 Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire launched February 19 – March 8, 2020

2021 Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire coming late spring/early summer 2021

2020 Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire

- 110 Pharmacists responded
- 55% review prior to dispensing
 - or at least once a day (29%)
- 87% reviewed when the patient dropped of the prescription
- 85% lacked confidence in prescribers having checked the PDMP which prompted 76% to contact the provider
- 79% of pharmacists reported they had denied a prescription
 - Top three reasons:
 - Prescription was not in the best interest of the patient (37%)
 - Prescription not due or refilled to early (24%)
 - Prescription not being in the regular course of medical treatment (16%)

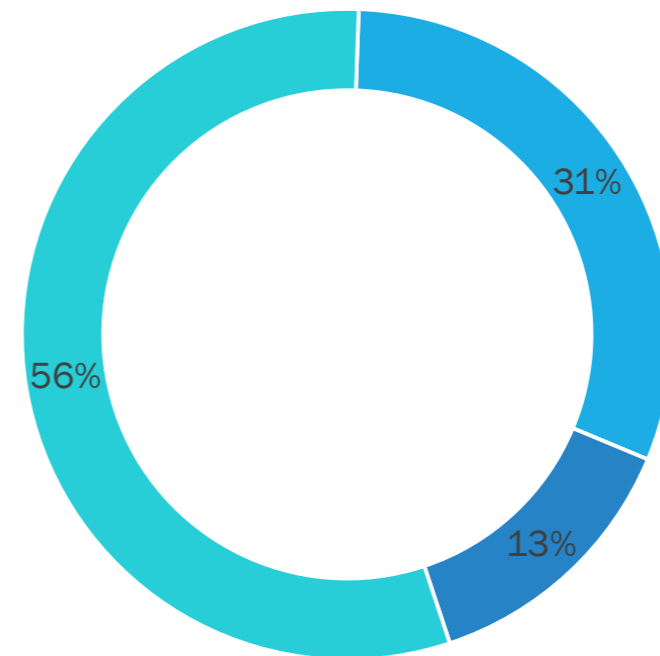
REPORTING

Pharmacists-in-charge are required to report dispensations of federally scheduled II – IV controlled substances daily

Weekend dispensations can be reported on Monday

If no federally scheduled II – IV controlled substances are dispensed, a zero report must be submitted

Reporting Compliance



- Pharmacies Reporting
- Pharmacies Dipsensing/Distributing
- Pharmacies Delinquent

REPORTING

AS 17.30.200(b)

AS 17.30.200(u)

- Notice of Reporting
 - Letters sent September 2020

- Quarterly Reports
 - Compliance will be assessed on a quarterly basis
 - Non-compliant dispensers will be notified
 - Letters sent January 2021

DELEGATES

Access permitted under
17.30.200(d)(4)

User Roles:

Pharmacist Delegate – Licensed

IHS Dispenser Delegate – Licensed

Military Dispenser Delegate –
Licensed

VA Dispenser Delegate – Licensed in
AK

VA Dispenser Delegate – Not
Licensed in AK

- Must be licensed under AS 08
 - Exception for VA providers/delegates
- Create their own private, secure access
- Do not pay the user fee or submit a registration form
- Are permitted to have up to five supervisors

- Current Users:
 - 102 – Pharmacist Delegate – Licensed
 - 7 – IHS Dispenser Delegate – Licensed

UPCOMING CHANGES

- Communications Module

- Allow providers to leave messages to other providers or leave a note on a patient's profile

- Compliance Module

- Sends an alert when a dispenser misses a day of reporting

- Awareness and Feedback Questionnaire

- Late spring/early summer, announcements will follow

AWARENESS AND FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

- 47% of pharmacists did not face barriers to using the PDMP
 - 18% cited lack of time

- Top three reasons pharmacists use the PDMP:
 - Do not want to contribute to abuse or misuse
 - Reduces prescription opioid misuse
 - Screen for substance misuse

- Less than 1% of responding pharmacists had delegates

CONTACTS

Laura Carrillo
EA, Board of Pharmacy
Tel: 907-465-1073
laura.carrillo@alaska.gov

Lisa Sherrell
PDMP Manager
Tel: 907-465-1039
lisa.sherrell@alaska.gov

Board of Pharmacy
boardofpharmacy@alaska.gov

Questions?