



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

**Maryland Board of Pharmacy**  
Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director  
4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215-2299

December 20, 2019

**VIA REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**  
**ARTICLE # 7018 1130 0002 2824 8623**

Walgreen's Pharmacy # 5686  
401 Compass Road  
Baltimore, MD 21220  
Attn: Josette Pono, RPh, Pharmacy Manager

Re: Permit No. P06776  
Case No. 20-074  
Notice of Deficiencies, Recommended Civil Monetary Penalty, and  
Opportunity for Hearing

Dear Pharmacy Manager:

On July 19, 2019, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") conducted an annual inspection of Walgreen's Pharmacy #5686 (the "Pharmacy") for compliance with statutes and regulations governing the operation of a pharmacy. The Board's inspection indicated that the Pharmacy was not compliant with laws relating to labeling of prescription drugs. Specifically, the Board inspector noted a prepared prescription for Humalog Mix 75/25 KwikPen Inj 3ml in the ready area of the medication refrigerator with a label stating "use before mfg. labeled date" instead of an expiration date 1 year from the date of dispensing. In addition, the Board's inspector observed an individual (D.L.) performing delegated pharmacy acts in the Pharmacy as a technician trainee beyond the six-month registration exemption period. The Board's records indicate that the individual subsequently registered as a pharmacy technician on July 23, 2019.

## **I. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

The Board finds that the annual inspection on July 19, 2019, noted that the Pharmacy prepared for dispensing a medication labeled with an incorrect expiration date, referring generally to the manufacturer's expiration date rather than 1 year from the date of dispensing. Furthermore, the Pharmacy permitted an individual to perform delegated pharmacy acts in the Pharmacy as a technician trainee beyond the six-month registration exemption period.

Based upon deficiencies at your Pharmacy, the Board finds that the Pharmacy is in violation of the Maryland Pharmacy Act. Specifically, the Board finds the Pharmacy in violation of Health Occ. Art. §§ 12-403(c)(1) and (16), 12-6B-01 and 12-505.

## **II. RECOMMENDED CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY**

Under Maryland Health Occupations Article § 12-410 and COMAR 10.34.11, the Board of Pharmacy has the authority to impose a civil monetary penalty based upon violations of the Maryland Pharmacy Act.

Based upon the deficiencies cited at the Pharmacy, the Board hereby recommends the imposition of a **civil monetary penalty of \$2,000.00**. The deficiencies upon which the civil monetary penalty is based are set forth in the Notice above and the inspection report, dated July 19, 2019.

In determining the recommended civil monetary penalty, the Board took into consideration the aggregating and mitigating factors outlined in COMAR 10.34.11.08.

## **III. FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION**

Please be advised that the Board of Pharmacy may perform a follow-up inspection of the Pharmacy to ensure that the deficiencies noted herein have been addressed and corrected. Should the follow-up inspection indicate that the Pharmacy has further deficiencies, the Board may pursue further disciplinary action against the Pharmacy that may result in the imposition of sanctions such as suspension, revocation or additional monetary penalties.

## **IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING**

If the Pharmacy disputes the findings, conclusions or the civil monetary penalty, the Pharmacy may request an evidentiary hearing on the Board's decision in this matter. In the event that the Pharmacy requests an evidentiary hearing, the Board shall initiate formal proceedings which will include the opportunity for a full evidentiary hearing. The hearing will be held in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann. State Gov't § 10-201 *et seq.*, and COMAR 10.34.01. Any request for a hearing must be submitted in writing to Rochen Wang, Pharm D, Investigations Supervisor, Maryland Board of Pharmacy, 4201 Patterson Ave., 5th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, **no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this Notice**.

Please be advised that at the hearing the Pharmacy would have the following rights: to be represented by counsel, to subpoena witnesses, to call witnesses on its own behalf, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, to testify, and to present summation and argument. Should the Board find the Pharmacy guilty of the violations cited in the Reports, the Board may suspend or revoke the pharmacy permit, impose civil penalties, or both. If the Pharmacy requests a hearing but fails to appear, the Board may nevertheless hear and determine the matter in its absence.

## V. OPTION TO PAY RECOMMENDED CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY

Alternatively, the Pharmacy may pay the recommended civil monetary penalty **within thirty (30) days** of the date of this Notice, in the form of a certified check or money order made payable to the Maryland Board of Pharmacy.

Please mail the check or money order to:

Wells Fargo Bank  
Attn: State of MD – Board of Pharmacy  
Lockbox 2051  
7175 Columbia Gateway Drive  
Columbia, MD 21046

**NOTE:** Please include the case number, 20-074, on your check or money order to ensure proper assignment to your case.

The Pharmacy shall also submit to the Board a corrective action plan **within thirty (30) days** of the date of this Notice detailing, at minimum, actions taken to remedy the above labeling deficiencies and an anticipated date of correction.

Upon the Pharmacy's payment of the civil monetary penalty and submission of the corrective action plan, this Notice will constitute the Board's final action with respect to the inspection dated July 19, 2019, and shall be a public document and order in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act, Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Art. § 4-101, *et seq.*, and reported and posted in accordance with State and federal laws.

If you have any questions concerning the instructions contained in this letter, please contact Rochen Wang, Pharm D, Investigations Supervisor, at 410/764-3768.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata  
Executive Director

cc: Andrew Militello, Walgreens, Director of Pharmacy & Retail Operations  
Linda Bethman, AAG, Board Counsel