



February 10: New Consumer Safety Law Affects Pharmacists

TPA received the following important information from the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) regarding the upcoming **FEBRUARY 10, 2010**, implementation of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) regulations affecting consumer products and new requirements for community pharmacists. Beginning February 10, 2010, CPSIA, signed in 2008, imposes a third-party testing and documentation requirement for a variety of consumer products, including the certification of poison prevention packaging and certain drugs. Manufacturers and importers will be required to make **certificates of conformity** available to retailers and distributors for affected products.

How does this affect pharmacy?

If any drug, for children or adults, is determined to be subject to the Poison Prevention Packaging Act regulations and requires child-resistant packaging, the manufacturer that packages the drug must issue a certificate of conformity with the requirements. It is the pharmacy's responsibility to only sell products that comply with these provisions. The rule will be enforced at the state level by attorneys general. If someone requests a certificate of conformity on a product, the pharmacy has 24 business hours to provide it. Failure to produce a certificate can result in fines of up to \$1,000.

Additional information can be found on the TPA website at www.tnpharm.org/MembersOnly/Breaking_News/2.5.10.cpsia.pdf or on the Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/cpsia.html.

TPA Executive Resident Needs Your Help in Completing MTM Survey

TPA would like pharmacists to weigh in on a brief survey designed to assess the need for and feasibility of developing a network for provision of Medication Therapy Management (MTM) by pharmacist providers in our state. If you haven't already completed the survey, please do so as soon as possible. TPA is gathering ideas and experiences from other state pharmacy associations but, most importantly, needs to hear from **YOU!**

Your responses will be used by TPA in evaluating our plan for providing MTM in Tennessee. A summary of the collected data will be presented at the APhA annual meeting in March 2010.

The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. If you have any questions, please contact the primary researcher, TPA's Executive Resident Kelly Neil, at kelly@tnpharm.org. Thank you for your time. Your input is greatly appreciated!

Please proceed to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CZQ7KQ9> to access the survey.

CMS Tells Non-Accredited DME Pharmacies: Act Now or be Revoked

From the National Community Pharmacist Association (NCPA): In light of the fact that Congress has not yet passed a permanent exemption for pharmacies from DME accreditation requirements, CMS has told NCPA that they will start sending revocation notices after Friday, February 12th to pharmacies that are not yet fully accredited or in the accreditation process. For pharmacies that are in the accreditation process, they have until March 1st to get their accreditation done and submitted to CMS. Pharmacies that have sent in a surety bond, but 1) will not have their accreditation finished by March 1st ; or, 2) have elected not to be accredited, must either have "stepped down" from selling DME supplies (using an 855S application) or voluntarily terminated from the program **by Friday, February 12th.**

If you sent in an 855S in late September or early October to "step down", you may have to send in a "step down" application again to the NSC. CMS may not have processed that application because of the 3-month accreditation extension that was granted at that time.

While each pharmacy will have to make its own business decision, if a pharmacy 'steps down', it will take less time to get back into the program than if CMS revokes a pharmacy's billing number. If an unaccredited pharmacy's DME billing number is revoked, however, the pharmacy will not be able to get back into the program for another year according to CMS.

NCPA continues to work with Congressional leadership to pass another extension or permanent exemption, and hopes that will happen in the very near future.

TPA's MIDYEAR MEETINGS

Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Nashville
February 20-23, 2010

Four great meetings, four great opportunities!

For more information, visit
<http://tinyurl.com/TPAmeetings>
or call TPA, 615-256-3023

- TSSP Annual Meeting (for students) – Feb. 20
- TSHP MidYear Seminar – Feb. 21
- Medication Therapy Management Workshop – Feb. 21
- TPA MidYear Meeting and Legislative Conference – Feb. 22-23 (Legislative Conference – Feb. 22)

The **Doubletree Hotel's** deadlines have been extended **until this Monday, February 8**, to accommodate more people. Make your room reservations by calling the Doubletree at 615-244-8200.

Tennessee Pharmacists Association 615.256.3023 615.255.3528 Fax tpa@tnpharm.org www.tnpharm.org



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