



Idaho State Board of Pharmacy

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MINUTES OF THE IDAHO STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY November 19, 2015 – Conference Call 1199 Shoreline Lane Ste 303, Boise, Idaho

This meeting of the Board was commenced to consider a modification to the previously approved waiver for Idaho State University's (ISU) Remote Dispensing Site.

In attendance at the Board's office were Kristina Jonas, PharmD, Vice Chairman; Alex Adams, PharmD, Executive Director; Berk Fraser, RPh, Deputy Executive Director; Ellen Mitchell, Program Information Coordinator; and Misty Lawrence, Management Assistant. In attendance telephonically were Rich de Blaquiere, PharmD, Chairman; Board Members Holly Henggeler, PharmD and Nicole Chopski, PharmD; Andy Snook, Deputy Attorney General; Paul Cady, Ph.D. and Rex Force, PharmD representing Idaho State University (ISU); Preston Becker, CFO, Gritman Medical Center; Jason Reading, PharmD; Adam Chesler and Roby Miller representing Telpharm.

Dr. de Blaquiere called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Dr. Jonas motioned to add the agenda item 'Public Comment', Dr. Henggeler seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Drs. Force and Cady presented ISU's request for modification to their existing Remote Dispensing Site waivers. Red Cross Pharmacy in Kendrick, Idaho lost their only pharmacist due to a sudden death roughly 18 months ago. The family has been struggling to keep the pharmacy open and continue to serve their patients. Though there are services available within 25 miles, the roads can be treacherous in the winter. The area has a high population of elderly patients, adding to the critical nature of maintaining pharmacy services in the community. ISU would work closely with Gritman Medical Center to remodel Red Cross Pharmacy, allowing for telepharmacy services. ISU presented three requests for waivers:

1. Waive the requirement that the telepharmacy be located within a medical facility. Dr. Force noted that it may be preferred to have telepharmacies in a medical facility, it should not be a specific requirement, as a telepharmacy may attract additional medical services to a community. In the case of Kendrick, the proposed remote dispense site will be a very short distance from Gritman Medical Clinic.
2. Approve Kendrick as a telepharmacy site in addition to the previously approved sites in Arco, Challis, Council and Mackay.
3. Allow for the remote dispensing sites to serve as supervising pharmacies (and vice versa) of other remote dispensing sites.

Dr. de Blaquiere called for public comment regarding ISU's request. Preston Becker, on behalf of Gritman Medical Center reiterated Gritman's support for telepharmacy services in Kendrick as necessary for access to care. Mr. Becker reiterated that distance can be prohibitive given the terrain, especially in the winter. He indicated that their clinic population is roughly 50%

Medicare/Medicaid, and 10% self-pay, and that it is important to keep local businesses local to support the community.

Dr. Henggeler questioned Dr. Force about the counseling process of counseling on a new prescription. Dr. Force indicated they will use a video feed to provide counseling to patients as they do at the other telepharmacy locations. Counseling is a great concern for ISU as well and they are studying ways to encourage patients to accept counseling. Dr. Henggeler asked for clarification on if the proposed Kendrick telepharmacy site was in place of the previously approved site in Mackay, or in addition to all previously approved sites. Dr. Force confirmed that the proposed Kendrick site was in addition to the sites already approved in Arco, Challis, Council, and Mackay. Dr. Chopski asked about security at the site when only one technician is present. Dr. Force indicated that all current ISU telepharmacy sites are staffed by at least two pharmacy technicians.

Following discussion, Dr. Chopski motioned to accept Kendrick as a telepharmacy site, Dr. Jonas seconded. Ensuing discussion revealed Request 3 does not require a waiver as there is no limitation on who can and cannot serve as a supervising pharmacy.

Dr. de Blaquiere indicated his desire to address the telepharmacy rule in 2016. Dr. de Blaquiere believes it is a major shift for telepharmacy to not be in a medical facility. Dr. Force believes medical services may follow if pharmacy services are supported and available in a community, though he does agree there are advantages to co-location. Dr. Chopski amended her motion to accept all three waiver requests with the addition that they are also bound by the stipulations encompassed in the previous waivers granted for ISU and Bengal Pharmacy. Dr. Jonas seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Adams asked for clarification on drafting the stipulations for the new waiver, as several items were raised during the Board's discussion:

1. Does the Board want to require a remodel application of Red Cross Pharmacy, thus triggering an on-site inspection of the security provisions prior to commencing operations?

The Board does want to pursue this.

2. Currently, the ISU waiver indicates that a Pharmacist-in-Charge can oversee 3 sites. Should a stipulation be added that a pharmacist-on-duty can oversee no more than 3 sites at once?

The Board does want to pursue this. ISU confirmed that they are currently adherent to this stipulation and will continue it.

3. What should be set as an expiration date of the waiver?

The Board wants this waiver to end in March 2017, when the remaining ISU waivers expire. As a result, no motion is necessary, as this waiver will be structured as an amendment to the original waiver.

4. During discussion, ISU indicated that they can conduct research to help identify if prescription volume could be an appropriate barometer for pharmacist-on-duty supervision, as opposed to limiting supervision based solely on the number of sites.

Does the Board want to add this as a requirement?

The Board welcomes any research and/or data ISU can provide regarding these issues as it may help them write better laws in the future, though it should not be required as part of the waiver.

Dr. Jonas motioned to accept the points Dr. Adams raised with respect to requiring a remodel and inspection, and limiting the pharmacist-on-duty to overseeing three sites at once. Dr. Chopski seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Chopski requested ISU to add MTM to their quarterly report as she is interested in the data.

Dr. Jonas motioned to adjourn, Dr. Chopski seconded. Dr. de Blaquiere called for a roll call vote, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Approved