



MONTANA PHARMACY TODAY

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MONTANA PHARMACY ASSOCIATION SELECTS ERIC WARD OF HAVRE AS NEW CHAIR FOR 2022/2023

The Montana Pharmacy Association officially selected Havre pharmacist Eric Ward as the association's new Chair during their 2022 Annual Business Meeting on June 4th.

Eric is a graduate of Havre High School and later attended the University of Montana Skaggs School of Pharmacy, receiving his Doctorate of Pharmacy in 2009. Immediately after graduation, he took a position as the Pharmacy Manager/Pharmacist-in-charge at the Gary & Leo's HealthMart Pharmacy in Havre and has held this position for 13 years. He is now a part owner in the pharmacy.

Eric has been on the Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA) Board of Directors since his election in 2020 and has served on the organization's Legislative, Membership and Programming Committees. Eric stated, "Being on the front-line of our profession, I hope to bring good perspective to the current climate and to help steer us all in the right direction going forward." ■



WELCOME NEW MPA BOARD DIRECTORS

The MPA board election results are in, and we're pleased to announce that the following individuals have been elected to four-year terms. They are Katie Baker, PharmD, Community Pharmacist with Community Health Partners, in Bozeman and Matthew Bowman, BS Pharm, Director of Pharmacy, Barrett Hospital and HealthCare in Dillon.

In addition, Elliot Littman, has been seated as the new student member on the MPA board. He joins current student representative Jenna Schabacker who remains on the board for another year.

Congratulations Katie, Matthew and Elliot! ■



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BEYOND-USE DATE VS. NURSING HOME STORAGE POLICY – AVOID THIS RECOUPMENT TRAP!

Manufacturers go through rigorous testing to bring their products to market and part of the tedious approval process includes stability, sterility, and beyond-use date (BUD) testing. Pharmacies should be familiar with a product's stability, sterility, and BUD information since these timeframes may come into play when determining the correct quantity and days' supply to bill. Insulin pens and vials are the most commonly billed products where the BUD may influence the days' supply. For example, a single vial of Lantus® or NovoLog® is good for 28 days once the top is punctured; therefore, a single vial of either of these insulins should always be billed for 28 days or less. Alternatively, a single vial of Levemir® is good for 42 days once it has been punctured; therefore, a single vial of Levemir® should always be billed for 42 days or less. For additional BUD information, refer to Section 16 of the manufacturer product labeling, or PAAS Audit Assistance¹ members can view various Days Supply Charts found in the Tools & Aids² section of the PAAS Member Portal.

Pharmacies billing for nursing home patients may come across yet another "date of importance" - the maximum time a product may be stored according to the facility's storage policy. PAAS National® analysts see pharmacies billing eye drops, inhalers, and insulin products as a 28-day or 30-day supply even though the directions on the prescription, the manufacturer product sterility information, and the BUD all support a longer days' supply. Using the Levemir® example from above, if a pharmacy had a prescription for a Levemir® vial 100 units/mL, injecting 12 units subcutaneously nightly (dispense 10 mL), a single vial would have 83.3 doses or 83 days of medication. However, the BUD of a single vial is only 42 days; therefore, this should be billed as a 42-day supply. If a nursing home facility has a policy to discard all insulin vials after 28 days, then a pharmacy would be tempted to bill this as a 28-day supply but **be aware of the repercussions this billing process could have!** Nursing home practices and policies do not invalidate FDA/manufacture sterility testing. Adjusting the days' supply to 28 days to follow the facility's policy often leads to "invalid day supply" penalty fees and full recoupments on early refills since PBMs will not take into consideration nursing home policies when determining days' supply.

PAAS TIPS:

- Always attempt to bill the true/accurate days' supply on a claim.

- PAAS Audit Assistance members can utilize the following tools and additional billing resources on the PAAS Member Portal² to facilitate correct billing:
 - o Insulin Medication Chart
 - o Eye Drop Chart
 - o Can You Bill It as 30 Days?
 - o Oral Inhaler Chart
 - o Find additional manufacturer storage information on DailyMed³.
- If there is no state law to substantiate a facility's storage policy which is more restrictive than manufacturer's storage guidance (i.e., billing eye drops, inhalers, insulins, etc. for 28 or 30 days due to facility policy when they truly would last longer according to directions and manufacturer sterility information):
 - o Consider talking to the facility's Director of Nursing about revising their policy so your pharmacy can avoid penalty fees and recoupment issues, or
 - o Insist that the pharmacy must bill for the true days' supply according to directions and product labeling. If the facility's storage policy requires early fills, then the facility will have to pay for those early fills. This is unlikely to be well-received by any facility and may help open lines of communication about changing the facility's policy. ■

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By Trenton Thiede, PharmD, MBA, President at PAAS National®, expert third party audit assistance and FWA/HIPAA compliance

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References:

1. <https://paasnational.com/audit-assistance/>
2. <https://portal.paasnational.com/Paas/Resource/Tools>
3. <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/>

MESSAGE FROM DONNA BEALL-NEW INTERIM DEAN UM SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Donna Beall, Pharm.D., FCCP, CPP, Interim Dean and Professor, Skaggs School of Pharmacy

I am truly honored to serve as interim dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy (SSOP). As I enter my 26th year as a Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and going on 5 years serving as the Director of Student Services, I have reflected on the accomplishments of our School and the challenges ahead. To me, “resilient” is the word that best describes our School — a family of students, staff, faculty, researchers and preceptors on the front lines of pharmacy practice and biomedical and pharmaceutical research. Throughout the pandemic, everyone in the SSOP community remained committed to the health and well-being of our students and strove to ensure they remained on track for matriculation and graduation. To that I give a big Thank you.

While the pandemic forced us to revise and refocus, I believe

we are emerging stronger and better prepared for the future. No doubt, there will be challenges in light of the severe, acute impact the pandemic has had on our educational and financial resources, especially when combined with the pre-existing and chronic financial strain placed on higher education and fewer applicants to our pharmacy program. Though these challenges seem unsurmountable, I feel with the entire Montana pharmacy community we can overcome some of these challenges. I will continue my role as a member of Board of the Montana Pharmacy Association and look forward to continuing our partnership.

Though my role is temporary, I am absolutely committed to helping the SSOP maintain its excellence in teaching, research and service. ■

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN SPOTLIGHT - MANDY OUSLEY

1. **Where do you work and what is your position?** I work at Juro's Health and Wellness Pharmacy and I am a certified compounding pharmacy technician.
2. **What motivated you to pursue a career as a pharmacy technician?** I started when I was 18. It was just by luck really; I was a teenager with no guidance, heading nowhere. I was working in a plant shop in North Carolina and I had to go water the Hot Houses. After the first time I did this, I thought, I had better find something else to do. In North Carolina, it is 115° in the summer with humidity. It was not an outdoor job I wanted. The plant store I worked in, had an Eckerd pharmacy and they were hiring for a technician. I just happened to fall into it. It has been my passion and love ever since.
3. **What is your favorite thing about being an MPA member?** And if you aren't an MPA member, what interests you about the association? I'm not a member, but the opportunity for CE and just meeting others around the state and learning about their pharmacy technician jobs.
4. **What is your latest accomplishment?** We are currently renovating our home.
5. **What are your passions outside of work?** If I'm not working, I love spending time with my family; we love hanging out at the Yellowstone River. I also learned how to bake bread during COVID and have loved it!
6. **What advice do you have for other pharmacy technicians?** Always keep your ears open and listen and learn as much as you can. There is something new to learn every day. From pharmacists to residents, they are always willing to teach. ■



WANT TO START A PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ACCREDITATION PROGRAM? CONTACT ASHP

Accreditation is the act of granting credit or recognition, especially to an educational institution that maintains quality and compliance with the ASHP/ACPE standards. ASHP/ACPE standards, regulations, the list of accredited programs, how to start a program, and preparing for accreditation are all available on the ASHP website. For any additional questions regarding ASHP/ACPE accreditation of pharmacy technician education and training programs, email asd@ashp.org.

PTCB RECERTIFICATION PROCESS EXPLAINED

PTCB understands that some state pharmacy association members have received questions regarding the certification renewal process. Since May 2019, a connection between PTCB's database and NABP's CPE Monitor allows Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPhTs) to attest to having the required CE hours in CPE Monitor rather than manually entering CEs within their certification renewal application. It's important to note that 97% of CPhTs attest that all required CEs are in CPE Monitor and greater than 87% seamlessly complete the renewal process.

The goal of this technology integration was to verify that technicians have kept up with the CE requirements they need to renew their certification. There is a gap of up to 60 days between the time the application is submitted and the audit being complete. This is because CE providers have up to 60 days from the date of activity completion to report data to CPE Monitor.

Since CPhTs are attesting to having met the requirements, a PDF copy of their certificate with a new expiration date is available immediately and can be downloaded from their PTCB account. The certificate is no longer available for download if a CPhT fails the audit.

Common issues are listed below along with proposed solutions and/or ways to avoid problems:

- Issue: Technical problem between CE provider and the CPE Monitor leading to one or more programs not appearing in a technician's CPE Monitor transcript Solution: Carefully review the CPE Monitor transcript before attesting and submitting a PTCB renewal application
- Issue: Not fulfilling categorical requirements such as one hour of pharmacy law or one hour of patient safety Solution: Review renewal requirements closely and confirm the right programs are in CPE Monitor before submitting a renewal application
- Issue: Personal information (e.g., email address) not updated in a CPhT's ptcb.org account Solution: PTCB sends critical information via email and it is the CPhT's responsibility to keep PTCB informed of the correct information and review all messages from PTCB. Here is a more detailed explanation of the process:

- A CPhT submits a recertification application and attests to having all 20 required hours, including one hour of patient safety and one hour of pharmacy law, in CPE Monitor.
- Upon submission of the recertification application, the CPhT receives an email stating "Your CPhT Recertification Application has been accepted. PTCB will verify that you have met the renewal CE requirements by reviewing your CPE Monitor data. If your application does not meet CE requirements, it will be returned." The email also contains some information reminding them of the CE requirements and encouraging them to check to make sure everything is in CPE Monitor.
- Our system pings CPE Monitor daily until it finds all 20 required hours or until 60 days have passed. If the system fails to find the required CEs by day 61 (i.e., after the 60-day window for providers to report has passed), the CPhT receives an email stating "Your PTCB CPhT Recertification Application has been returned. Upon review of your continuing education (CE) activities in CPE Monitor, we were unable to verify that you have completed your PTCB credential's CE requirements. Log into your PTCB Account and submit your renewal application corrections and reprocessing fee no later than [30 days after the email is sent]. Failure to resubmit your application will result in denial of recertification or reinstatement." The email also details the specific reason(s) their application was returned (e.g., they are missing one hour of patient safety CE).
- If the CPhT takes no action by the 30 day deadline, they receive an email stating "Your certification has expired. We regret to inform you that your CPhT Recertification Application has been denied because one or more of your continuing education (CE) activities are not acceptable." At this point, they would need to apply for reinstatement in order to have their certification returned to "active" status.

If there are questions, please contact Ryan Burke at PTCB, rburke@ptcb.org. ■



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MPA PASSES NINE POLICY RESOLUTIONS AT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

At the 2022 Annual MPA Business Meeting members heard a report on the nine policy resolutions that had been adopted by the full MPA Board. These resolutions will now serve as a guide in helping the MPA board and legislative committee as they prepare for the upcoming Montana Legislative Session that begins in January of 2023.

The nine MPA policy resolutions adopted cover the following:

1. **Support for Reforming White Bagging Policies – Be it resolved,** MPA joins with ASHP in supporting policy changes by FDA and others to enforce the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) which mandates an electronic supply chain history must be kept for all prescription drugs until that drug is dispensed to the patient -- with the ultimate goal of ending white bagging.
2. **Support for Pharmacy Technicians Education & Expanded Services – Be it resolved,** MPA expresses support for changing laws to allow licensed pharmacy technicians to provide greater services they are trained to provide. Additionally, MPA restates their strong support for pharmacy technicians and encourages development of technician training programs and other educational opportunities.
3. **Provider Status and Payment for Pharmacists Clinical Services – Be it resolved,** MPA urges private insurers, federal & state officials to take steps to recognize pharmacists as patient care providers and for payment of pharmacist provided patient care services.
4. **Reimbursements Expanded to Reimburse for Additional Services – Be it resolved,** MPA asks that Montana Healthcare Programs review and modify their current pharmacy reimbursement programs to include new services as well as granting pharmacist the ability to prescribe tobacco cessation products to Montana residents, without a collaborative practice agreement.
5. **Support for Enforcement of Pharmacy Integrity Laws – Be it resolved,** MPA supports the enforcement of existing laws licensing PBMs and regulating their activities and business practices.
6. **Support for Allowing Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians to Provide Immunizations – Be it resolved,** MPA encourages policymakers at all levels to allow pharmacists and pharmacy technicians full authority to provide all immunization services consumers have come to expect and enjoy.
7. **Support for Reviewing & Reforming the Naturopathic Physician Formulary – Be it resolved,** MPA encourages a review of the current Montana Naturopathic Physician Formulary by their regulating agency and ask the agency to seek input from pharmacists and other healthcare providers to update current policies in an effort to mitigate confusion.
8. **Support for Workplace Reform – Be it resolved,** MPA encourages pharmacy regulators, pharmacy organizations, and all pharmacy employers to develop policies recognizing current and future challenges frontline pharmacy professionals experience and urges them to make changes to improve workplace conditions and provide supportive work environments for pharmacy workers to promote public safety and wellbeing.
9. **Support for Repealing Outdated Notice to Purchaser Law – Be it resolved,** MPA encourages a repeal of Montana laws and regulations imposing a notice to purchaser sign requirement. ■

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The Montana Pharmacy Association has a Facebook page, available through the Association's website at www.rxmt.org. This MPA feature serves as a popular and easy way for members and anyone interested in Montana pharmacy related issues to stay connected. We hope you will join us!

MONTANA PHARMACY TODAY



MPA STUDENT CORNER ...

Under the direction of Dr. Jenner Minto, University of Montana pharmacy students started an antimicrobial stewardship interest group last fall. Through this group, students have had the opportunity to analyze antimicrobial usage data from across Montana. The best part is that students get to see how antibiograms are developed and directly observe how pharmacist recommendations can change prescribing trends in ways that prevent widespread antibiotic resistance. As the next generation of pharmacists, University of Montana students are showing their commitment to protecting the efficacy of antimicrobial drugs long into the future. • Alexis Murphy (P4) is completing an APPE rotation on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Browning, MT. She currently

works at Blackfeet Community Hospital with two P4 students from the University of North Texas Health Science Center. The students do a variety of tasks to help provide health care services to the Blackfeet community. "We spend the days performing rounds with doctors, discussing meds with patients, compounding IV medications, and performing other tasks and projects." Students looking to complete a rotation in Browning receive both food and housing and a great healthcare opportunity within the reservation. "It has been a good experience. I have liked it more than I thought, I have made some really good friends, and Browning is a great community to be a part of." Two other UM students are to complete rotations at the same location during their P4 year. ■

APHA WELL-BEING SURVEY – MONTANA RANKING

Over the past few years APhA has been conducting a Pharmacist Well-being Index Survey of all states and Washington DC. With the increased stress facing pharmacists during, and after the pandemic, APhA thought pharmacists would benefit from seeing how the distress percent ranking for each state. Below is the data slide from the report for Montana and other surrounding states. ■



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Changes in Distress Levels – District Seven

As of July 2022



	Change in Distress % Jul 2022 Vs Jun 2022	Distress % Jul 2022	Distress % State Rank Jul 2022	Change in Distress % Jun 2022 Vs May 2022	Distress % State Rank Jun 2022	Distress % State Rank May 2022	Distress % State Rank Apr 2022	Distress % State Rank Mar 2022	Distress % State Rank Feb 2022	Distress % State Rank Jan 2022	Distress % State Rank Dec 2021	Distress % State Rank Sep 2021	Distress % State Rank Apr 2021	Distress % State Rank May 2020	Distress % State Rank Apr 2020
Alaska	-0.43%	30.56%	39	-0.44%	38	38	33	33	49	48	48	49	49	49	49
Idaho	-0.29%	34.19%	24	No Change	22	22	27	25	26	31	31	40	34	40	39
Montana	No Change	40.63%	11	No Change	10	11	11	11	12	10	10	10	12	19 (T)	24
Oregon	0.17%	33.33%	27 (T)	0.18%	28	31	29	30	30	29	27 (T)	28	28	36	37
Washington	0.24%	42.19%	9	0.57%	8	8	9	10	10	12	11	12	11	12	13
Wyoming	No Change	17.39%	52	No Change	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	51	51	~	~

(T) = Tied rank with another state(s).

Note: Some historic data from 2020/2021 has been removed to allow space for current month. Refer to previous months' reports or contact ashaughnessy@aphanet.org for data.



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Calendar of Events

September 21 & 22: Student Meet and Greet
and MPA Board Meeting in Missoula

October 1: MPA Dues Renewal

2022 Continuing Education Offerings

2022 MPA & Colorado Virtual Technician CE
September 24, 2022

2023 MPA Winter CE & Ski
January 6-8, 2023 | Big Sky

Spring Seminar
TBD | Billings & Missoula

NW Conference
June 1-4, 2023 | Coeur d'Alene Resort