



SDCPHA Voice

Newsletter of the San Diego County Pharmacists Association
www.sdcpha.com

California Pharmacists Insurance Services

July 2001

Editor: Gene Tunick, R.Ph.

Volume IV, Issue 4

A Note From Randy.

Hello everyone. Hope you are keeping cool this summer. My name is Randy Moore and I am going to be helping Gene Tunick with the newsletters. I would like to personally thank Gene for all his efforts in keeping the newsletter going. We hope it will continue to provide you with information as to the happenings in and around the San Diego County Pharmacists' Association. I am looking forward to working on the newsletters and would greatly appreciate any articles or suggestions you may have for us. Please contact us at:

www.sdcpha.com

Official Business of the California Pharmacists Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE #20

July 2, 2001

Legislative Republicans Reject Budget; Pharmacies Still Will Be Paid

This week Republicans in both houses of the legislature rejected the budget produced by the budget conference committee. Republicans have a number of concerns, but the main sticking point is the restoration of a 1/4-cent sales tax. Democrats maintain

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Prescriptions from Internet Prescribers

by John Cronin

Pharmacists should be aware of a new law, Business and Professions Code Section 4067. This law, which became effective Jan. 1, 2001, makes clear Internet prescribers are required to conduct a good faith prior examination before prescribing any medication. In addition, the new law makes it a violation for anyone to dispense medication if they knew or reasonably should have known that a good faith prior examination had not occurred.

The new law was directed primarily against prescribers and dispensers of the "life style" drugs that are widely available over the Internet. However, any prescription issued via the Internet by a prescriber who has not conducted a good faith prior examination is not valid under the provisions of this law, the Medical Practice Act and the California Code of Regulations. Under the terms of the new law, the prescriber and the pharmacy may be subjecting themselves to fines of \$25,000 per occurrence for prescribing or dispensing medications that do

not meet the good faith prior examination requirement.

Pharmacists should be very cautious about filling Internet prescriptions or prescriptions from out of state prescribers who have only "seen" the patient via the Internet. Because of limitations on its jurisdiction, the Board of Pharmacy will likely enforce the new law only against pharmacies

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Calendar of Activities

July 18, 2001

July Continuing Education:

"It's All The Rave" – General toxicology overview of Generation X drugs.

Cynthia Johnson, PharmD

Location: TBA

September 24 – 28, 2001

Antibiotics Awareness Week

October 4, 2001

CPhA Board of Trustees Meeting, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Reno, NV

October 5-7, 2001

Western Pharmacy Education Faire, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Reno, NV

November 18, 2001

PTCB Examination

February 8-10, 2002

CPhA Annual Meeting
San Francisco Airport Marriott

September 27-29, 2002

Western Pharmacy Education Faire, Sheraton Grand Sacramento, Sacramento, Calif

Can You Guess The Industry?



1

This industry was deregulated in the last few years

2

The purpose was to lower prices through increased competition

3

The companies involved have lost large sums of money

4

The future solvency of some companies is in question

5

The State has gotten involved to protect consumers

6

Rates have increased dramatically

Answer: **The Workers' Compensation Industry**
Turmoil Continues in 2001! Large Rate Hikes Expected!

Six years after the start of open rating, the workers' compensation insurance market finds itself in a financial position that continues to worsen. During the past year alone, a number of companies have either stopped offering Workers' Compensation insurance, had their A.M. Best & Co. ratings reduced (*State Fund*), been placed under the supervision of the Department of Insurance (*Fremont*) or been liquidated by the DOI (*Superior National*). The remaining companies are requiring significant increases to protect their financial viability. Open rating, introduced to make the California workers' compensation market more competitive, has had the opposite effect.

The State is also requiring a 1% premium surcharge (for the California Insurance Guarantee Association) on all new and renewal policies with effective dates of January 1, 2001 and later to assist in the payment of claims on behalf of insolvent companies.

Pharmacists should be concerned with the financial stability of their insurance

company. Otherwise their company could very well be the headline of next year.

Members who don't participate in the association sponsored Workers' Compensation program and have not taken advantage of the expense reduction enjoyed by many members over the past few years will want to finally make a switch this year. Even though program premiums will be increasing as well this year, they are still lower than most companies in California.

Call California Pharmacists Insurance Services at **888-926-CPhA** when you get your Workers' Compensation renewal notice this year.

Underwritten by:



TIG Specialty Insurance Solutions is a service mark owned by TIG Holdings, Inc. The Workers' Compensation insurance program is underwritten by TIG Insurance Company or its subsidiaries or affiliates.

SIXTH ANNUAL SDCPhA

DAY AT THE BALLPARK

Sponsored by the San Diego
County Pharmacists Association

PADRES VS. GIANTS

Sunday
September 23, 2001



The San Diego County Pharmacists Association has reserved a limited number of Loge Level seats to the San Diego Padres vs. San Francisco Giants baseball game at Qualcomm Stadium. Please join us for a tailgate lunch (B.Y.O.B. – however, no beverages of any kind are allowed into the stadium) at the last home game of 2001.

We will be meeting at Parking Area A-4 between 12 noon and 1:30PM (game tickets will be distributed during this time). The game begins at 2PM. Take the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, meet new friends, and enjoy a good ballgame. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please return the coupon with your payment by August 31 in order to hold your space. If you

have questions, please contact CPhA Past-President Chris Woo at phone/fax 858-538-4079 or ChrisAWoo1@aol.com.

You are cordially invited to participate in the SDCPhA meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month at VASD Hospital Clinical Pharmacy office. Meetings start at 7PM and pharmacists from all practice settings serve on our board. Please attend any and all meetings, serve on a committee or run for elected office, or just make yourself heard.

Sincerely,
Chris Woo

please cut here and return with your payment

Please return with payment
by **8/31/01** to:

Attn: SDCPhA Day at the Ballpark,
6549 Mission Gorge Road #101
San Diego, CA 92120

Cost:
\$16 per CPhA or CSHP member
and per family member
\$25 per additional person

Name _____ E-mail address _____

Address _____

Number CPhA/CSHP members & family _____

Number of Non-CPhA or CSHP members _____

Phone number _____ Fax number _____

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Legislative Update

that elimination of the tax will require an additional \$600 million in reductions elsewhere in the budget and a stalemate has ensued.

Despite the lack of an approved state budget, Medi-Cal participating pharmacies can be assured that Medi-Cal reimbursement still will be forthcoming even though the budget was not signed by July 1. This continuation of payments is a result of CPhA-sponsored legislation in 1998 that ensured pharmacists and other Medi-Cal providers would receive reimbursement when no budget has been enacted by the deadlines.

Technician Legislation Postponed

The Senate Business and Professions Committee postponed hearing Assembly Bill 536 (Bates), which would increase the pharmacy technician ratio to 1-1 for the first pharmacist and 2-1 for each subsequent pharmacist on duty. This language is consistent with CPhA House of Delegates Policy and CPhA supports AB 536. As a result of concerns initiated by pharmacist compounding-related issues, several members of the committee expressed an interest in reexamining the legislation in that context. The legislation is set for a hearing on Monday, July 9.

Legislation Amended To Allow Pharmacists To Initiate Drug Therapy

Assembly Bill 826 (Cohn), which would expand current authority pharmacists possess under protocol to adjust drug regimens, to "initiate" drug regimens, was unanimously approved by the Senate Business and Professions Committee on June 25. CPhA supports AB 826.

Emergency Contraception Legislation To Be Heard On July 10

On Tuesday, July 10, the Assembly Health Committee will hear Senate Bill 1169 (Alpert), which will expand the ability for pharmacists to provide emergency contraception services. CPhA supports AB 1169.

SDCPhA Officers For 2001

President: Aaron Swann

President Elect: Helen Park

Vice President: Shaun Young

Secretary: Poonam Patel

Treasurer 1st Year
Of 2 Year Term: Dave Mitchell

Past President: John Ahearn

Board Of Directors: S. John Johnson

Eric Gupta

Randy Moore

Executive Vice President Gene Tunick

Pharmacist of the Month

Glen Schniepp – Pharmacist Past, Present and Future

Pharmacist Past

Glen decided to pursue a career in pharmacy when he was 18 and working as a pharmacy clerk in Escondido in 1942. The practice mainly consisted of compounding, (making tonics, cough syrups) and the big new drug was penicillin. The pharmacist, known as "doc," was the first person patients went to when they or their animals were sick. The average prescription cost a quarter and Rx volume ranged between 15 to 50 Rx's daily. His pharmacist employer, local physician, and desire to use his head instead of his back for a career drove him to enter pharmacy school at the University of Southern California. He owned Glen's Pharmacy for 11 years located in Imperial Beach. Then he entered a new arena as a clinical pharmacist at UCSD hospital pharmacy.

Pharmacist Present

Glen influenced our profession as it is practiced today on the job at UCSD and with his involvement with SDCPhA and CPhA. At UCSD Glen helped pioneer satellite pharmacies and software used for dispensing medications and was an Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy for UCSF. Glen was awarded the Pharmacist of the year in 1975 for SDCPhA and served as president in 1981. He then moved into the CPhA committees, served as Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates, and then 2 terms as Trustee to the CPhA Board. He was also very involved in legislative affairs helping policy makers decide that pharmacists are professionals. Other issues Glen dealt with as a leader of CPhA in the 70's and 80's were increasing membership of CPhA, adequate reimbursement from third-parties, and pharmacists ability to provide cognitive services.

Pharmacist Future

Glen is not sitting-back and watching his past contributions to CPhA influence the future of the profession but again taking an active role in sculpting the future of pharmacy. Glen continues to be an active member of SDCPhA and has helped advise the Board. The continuity he brings to the association will help the success of our association and the profession of pharmacy.

David Mitchell

SDCPhA Treasurer

Join SDCPHA At Baseball Great Tony Gwynn's Home Farewell

The San Diego County Pharmacists Association has reserved a limited number of seats for the Sunday, September 23 game between the SD Padres and SF Giants at Qualcomm Stadium for the cost of \$16 per CPhA member and \$25 per non-CPhA member. This will also be the last home game in the career of future Hall-of-Famer Tony Gwynn. This game sold out on July 8th, so this is your last chance to see Tony without paying the high prices scalpers will surely look to get. For this nominal fee, you get not only a showdown of National League rivals, a chance to bid farewell to one of the all-time baseball greats, but also a tailgate lunch before the 2PM game time. You can't beat this!!! The reserved tickets will be slotted for those who send in their money first and although the final deadline to register for the event is August 31, once the ticket allotment is sold out any registrations received after this cannot be accepted. To get more details and a flyer to register, log onto www.sdcpha.com, go to the "Calendar" section, click on the "9/23 Sixth Annual SDCPhA Day at the Ballpark" listing, and print it out. If you need more information, please contact event chair Chris Woo at phone/fax 858-538-4079 or ChrisAWoo1@aol.com.

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Prescriptions from Internet Prescribers

licensed in California. The political and media interest in protecting consumers against the perceived "dangers" of dealing via the Internet means there is a good chance this law will be enforced by the Board whenever they see a clear opportunity to do so. Pharmacies may well have to defend their actions when the prescriber is not licensed in California or even when the Medical Board decides not to pursue a prescriber in California.

Until the Medical Board and the Board of Pharmacy clarify how they will enforce this law, and because of the severe economic consequences involved pharmacies may well choose to decline to fill "Internet prescriptions" unless they can confirm and document that a "prior good faith examination" has occurred.

NEW DRUG SPOTLIGHT

Helen Park, PharmD

Name: Fluticasone propionate/Salmeterol (ADVAIR DISKUS)

Class: Corticosteroid (fluticasone) and long acting, selective β_2 agonist (salmeterol)

MOA: Fluticasone acts as an inhibitor of cells known to cause inflammation (mast cells, eosinophils, lymphocytes, etc) and mediator production or secretion (histamine, leukotrienes, cytokines, etc). Salmeterol stimulates adenyl cyclase, which catalyzes the conversion of ATP to cAMP leading to relaxation of bronchial smooth muscle and inhibition of mediators from mast cells.

Indication: Long-term maintenance treatment of asthma in patients 12 years of age or older

Contraindication: Treatment of status asthmaticus or other acute episodes of asthma

Dose: One inhalation twice daily, approximately 12 hours apart

Common Side Effects: Pharyngitis, dysphonia, cough, headache, GI discomfort. Possible risk of palpitations, chest pain, rapid heart rate, tremor, nervousness.

Drug Interactions: No formal studies have been performed; however, use with caution in patients concurrently on MAOIs, tricyclic antidepressants, non-selective β -blockers, non-potassium sparing diuretics, cytochrome P450 3A4 inhibitors.

Patient Consultation: After activating the diskus, exhale completely and then with your mouth over the mouthpiece, breathe in quickly and deeply through the diskus. Do not use more than twice daily, and do not use more than 1 inhalation at a time. Advair will not relieve sudden asthma symptoms. Do not use with a spacer device. Never exhale into the diskus. Always keep the diskus in a dry place. Do not attempt to wash the mouthpiece or any part of the diskus; do not attempt to take the diskus apart. Always use the diskus in a level, horizontal position. Do not use in combination with another Serevent product. Contact your physician if you are pregnant. Avoid exposure to chickenpox or measles.

Available in fluticasone/salmerterol mcg units of 100/50, 250/50, 500/50 per inhalation.

San Diego County Pharmacists Association

Website: www.sdcpha.com

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San Diego, CA 92120

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Newsletter Editor: Gene Tunick

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Thanks to **Seabury & Smith, Inc.** for production of our newsletter.
Seabury & Smith, Inc. is the exclusive administrator of the California Pharmacists Association sponsored insurance programs.
Call **(888) 926-CPhA** for information about the programs available or e-mail them at **CPhA.Insurance@marshmc.com**.

Have You Moved?

Please update your information for our records

Name: _____

Former Address: _____

Former City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

New City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Phone: (_____) _____

New Fax: (_____) _____

Do We Have Your e-Mail Address???

Name: _____ e-mail address: _____