



April 28, 2010

Dear NVSHP Members,

At the March 2010 Nevada Board of Pharmacy meeting, a large hospital management corporation requested permission to use Colorado pharmacists to perform remote order entry of chart orders for patients in three hospitals in Nevada (during all shifts, not just when the pharmacy is closed.) NVSHP learned about this request just prior to the board meeting. The NVSHP Board prepared a letter to the Board of Pharmacy, which was emailed just prior to the March meeting. Adam Porath, NVSHP Legislative Committee Chairman, and Robert Long, NVSHP Director at Large and Nevada Delegate to ASHP, attended, testified, and provided further information to the Board of Pharmacy. Please see the attached letters explaining NVSHP's views as well as the original request to the Board of Pharmacy.

As a result of the very timely and aggressive actions of our NVSHP Board and Legislative Committee, we scored a victory for the role of Nevada pharmacists that early March day! Adam and Robert did a fantastic job presenting NVSHP's stance on the issue. Board of Pharmacy member Beth Foster really came to bat for the pharmacists in the state of Nevada. Beth's action resulted in this issue being tabled for future consideration as part of the hospital pharmacy regulation rewrites. The proposed practice of out of state remote order entry while the hospital pharmacy is open is **not** legal in Nevada. We truly celebrated the positive results generated by our still young and growing professional association.

This Board of Pharmacy proceeding **should** have deferred action for the next several years while this revision process is undertaken. **Unfortunately**, we learned the hospital corporation plans to lobby the State Legislature, focusing on enacting a statute to allow for remote order entry while the pharmacy is open. If this were to occur, it would circumvent the Board of Pharmacy authority over pharmacy practice regulation, an undoubtedly reckless idea on many levels, and set a very bad precedent. It happened in Idaho, and could happen here if we do not remain diligent and active. This 'remote care' process could spread to home health care and long term care pharmacies. Everyone should be concerned about this threat to local control over professional practice of pharmacy.

The Nevada legislative calendar involves drafting bills by late fall 2010 for the 2011 legislative session. NVSHP will monitor any proposed legislation closely for this issue. However, an amendment can always be attached to any bill during the 2011 session. Nevada's pharmacy professionals must be diligent and proactive to prevent this from transpiring, and NVSHP is leading this charge.

NVSHP needs your engagement at the grass roots level. This includes: writing letters, meeting with legislators, and inviting your state representative to tour your pharmacy and understand the role of pharmacists beyond computer order entry and “vending machine” dispensing. If you are willing to do this, please contact NVSHP Legislative Chair Adam Porath or any NVSHP Board Member. The NVSHP email nvshpinfo@gmail.com will be routed to Adam and the NVSHP Board. Individual NVSHP Board contact information is available on the NVSHP web site and in each NVSHP newsletter if you prefer to contact one of us directly.

Our legislative committee always needs more actively engaged members, but you can assist even if you do not join this committee. This is the time to show our professional strength, and is crucial for NVSHP to increase membership. Please help our association to grow by inviting and recruiting new pharmacists and technicians. If each member of NVSHP recruits one new member, we will double our strength for legislative and professional involvement.

Inform your colleagues in hospital, long term care, and other health system pharmacy settings about the latest threat to professional pharmacy practice in Nevada. This is the best rallying point I have seen in my 10 years in Nevada...and a solid reason for pharmacists and technicians to join NVSHP and stand together. Share this letter and the attachments with a colleague, and encourage them to join NVSHP on our web site www.nvshp.org.

NVSHP Board Members would like to thank you for your membership, your thoughtful consideration of this issue and any assistance you are able to offer.

Professionally,

Caryn M. Bing

Caryn M. Bing, RPh
President, Nevada Society of Health System Pharmacists

Attachments:

NVSHP March 2010 letter to Board of Pharmacy

March 2010 Board of Pharmacy agenda item: Appearance Request (HCA)