



MARYLAND

Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor • Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor • Robert R. Neall, Secretary

MARYLAND BOARD OF PHARMACY

4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

Kevin M. Morgan, Board President • Deena Speights-Napata, Executive Director

September 10, 2018

**BY CERTIFIED AND REGULAR MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
CERTIFIED NUMBER: 7014 2870 0000 4731 8585**

Giant Pharmacy #365
3299 Emmorton Road
Abington, Maryland 21009
Attn: Karen Sherer Higgins, R.Ph., Pharmacy Manager

Re: Permit No. P02659
Case No. 18-150
Notice of Deficiencies, Recommended Civil Monetary Penalty, and
Opportunity for Hearing

Dear Pharmacy Manager:

On October 24, 2017, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") conducted an annual inspection of another Giant Pharmacy location for compliance with statutes and regulations governing the operation of a pharmacy. At that time, the Board's inspection noted that a staff pharmacist (K.D.) was registered to administer vaccinations; however, the pharmacist did not have a current CPR certification, which expired in January 2017. The Board subsequently received records from the Giant Pharmacy's corporate office indicating that the pharmacist administered approximately 30 vaccinations at Giant Pharmacy #365 (the "Pharmacy") without current CPR certification.

I. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The Board finds that the Pharmacy employed a pharmacist to administer vaccinations without current CPR certification from approximately May through October 2017, during which time approximately 30 vaccinations were administered.

Based upon deficiencies at your Pharmacy, the Board finds that the Pharmacy is in violation of the Maryland Pharmacy Act and the regulations adopted thereunder. Specifically, the Board finds the Pharmacy in violation of Health Occ. Art. §§ 12-403(c)(1), 12-508(b)(2) and COMAR 10.34.32.03.

II. RECOMMENDED CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY

Under Maryland Health Occupations Article § 12-410 and COMAR 10.34.11, the Board of Pharmacy has the authority to impose a civil monetary penalty based upon violations of the Maryland Pharmacy Act.

Based upon the deficiencies cited at the Pharmacy, the Board hereby recommends the imposition of a **civil monetary penalty of \$1,000.00**. The deficiencies upon which the civil monetary penalty is based are set forth above in this Notice.

In determining the recommended civil monetary penalty, the Board took into consideration the aggregating and mitigating factors outlined in COMAR 10.34.11.08.

III. FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION

Please be advised that the Board of Pharmacy may perform a follow-up inspection of the Pharmacy to insure that the deficiencies noted herein have been addressed and corrected. Should the follow-up inspection indicate that the Pharmacy has further deficiencies, the Board may pursue further disciplinary action against the Pharmacy that may result in the imposition of sanctions such as suspension, revocation or additional monetary penalties.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

If the Pharmacy disputes the findings, conclusions or the civil monetary penalty, the Pharmacy may request an evidentiary hearing on the Board's decision in this matter. In the event that the Pharmacy requests an evidentiary hearing, the Board shall initiate formal disciplinary proceedings which will include the opportunity for a full evidentiary hearing. The hearing will be held in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann. State Gov't § 10-201 *et seq.*, and COMAR 10.34.01. Any request for a hearing must be submitted in writing to Lisa Sanderoff, Investigator Supervisor, Maryland Board of Pharmacy, 4201 Patterson Ave., 5th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, **no later than thirty (30) days of the date of this Notice.**

Please be advised that at the hearing the Pharmacy would have the following rights: to be represented by counsel, to subpoena witnesses, to call witnesses on its own behalf, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, to testify, and to present summation and argument. Should the Board find the Pharmacy guilty of the violations

cited in the Reports, the Board may suspend or revoke the pharmacy permit, or impose civil penalties, or both. If the Pharmacy requests a hearing but fail to appear, the Board may nevertheless hear and determine the matter in its absence.

V. OPTION TO PAY RECOMMENDED CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY

Alternatively, the Pharmacy may pay the recommended civil monetary penalty **within thirty (30) days** of the date of this Notice with a check made payable to the Maryland Board of Pharmacy.

Please mail the check of money order to:

Wells Fargo Bank
Attn: State of MD - Board of Pharmacy
Lockbox 2051
7175 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

NOTE: Please include the case number, 18-150, on your check or money order to insure proper assignment to your case.

Upon the Pharmacy's payment of the civil monetary penalty, this Notice will constitute the Board's final action with respect to the above findings involving this Pharmacy, and shall be a public order in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act and reported in accordance with State and federal laws.

If you have any questions concerning the instructions contained in this letter, please contact Lisa Sanderoff, Investigator Supervisor, at 410/764-3768.

Sincerely,



Deena Speights-Napata
Executive Director

cc: Bryan Dunwoody, Manager, Ahold USA
Linda Bethman, AAG, Board Counsel