

1/31/2017

BOARD SETS SPECIAL MEETING ON AUTOMATED DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS

The California State Board of Pharmacy announces that it is holding a special meeting to discuss and consider possible changes in pharmacy laws to accommodate new technology and advances in the operation of automated drug delivery systems (ADDS) in a location that may be remote from the licensed pharmacy that provides oversight.

Background: Business and Professions Code sections [4105.5](#) and [4186](#), Health and Safety Code [section 1261.6](#), and other provisions set specific requirements for pharmacies operating ADDS devices in licensed health facilities. Among other requirements, ADDS machines must “collect, control and maintain all transaction information to accurately track the movement of drugs into and out of the system for security, accuracy and accountability.” Key provisions specify who is responsible for stocking an ADDS machine with medication and how restocking may be done.

Because many ADDS devices today offer features not addressed in pharmacy law, the board is inviting vendors to present information about available technological features and how the devices are affected by existing laws.

The board is seeking ways to allow pharmacies to provide better quality care and service to patients while maintaining security and protecting the public from diversion of controlled substances and other prescription drugs. The board’s focus during this meeting will be on reviewing ADDS technology that provides remote access to a health care professional (a nurse, anesthesiologist or other licensed provider).

Interested parties are invited to attend the board meeting at 9 a.m. Feb. 17, 2017, at 1625 N. Market Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95834. The meeting agenda is available on the board’s website [here](#).

Those wishing to present at the meeting will be invited to speak after a board review of a questionnaire to determine the relevancy of the ADDS device to the board’s focus. If invited to speak, vendors will be advised to limit presentations to a brief demonstration or overview of their ADDS devices, focusing on inventory controls, security features and benefits to patient care. Vendors are asked to complete a questionnaire about their ADDS machines and to identify proposed changes to pharmacy law to more appropriately provide for use of such technology.

Vendors are asked to advise board staff no later than **5 p.m. Feb. 10** of their intent to present at the meeting; provide a copy of their presentation and responses to the ADDS questionnaire; and identify barriers that exist in current law. This will allow staff sufficient time to finalize the agenda and prepare materials for board members and the public.

To register or ask questions, please contact Debbie Damoth at (916) 574-7935 or debbie.damoth@dca.ca.gov.

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