§283.6 Preceptor Requirements and Ratio of Preceptors to Pharmacist-Interns

(a) Preceptor requirements.

(1) Preceptors shall be:

(A) a pharmacist whose license to practice pharmacy in Texas is current and not on inactive status with the board; or

(B) a healthcare professional preceptor.

(2) A pharmacist preceptor shall publicly display the pharmacist preceptor certificate with his/her license to practice pharmacy and the license renewal certificate.

(3) To be recognized as a pharmacist preceptor, a pharmacist must:

(A) have at least:

(i) one year of experience as a licensed pharmacist; or

(ii) six months of residency training if the pharmacy resident is in a program accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists;

(B) have completed:

(i) for initial certification, three hours of pharmacist preceptor training provided by an ACPE approved provider within the previous two years. Such training shall be:

(1) developed by a Texas college/school of pharmacy; or

(2) approved by:

(-a-) a committee comprised of the Texas college/schools of pharmacy; or

(-b-) the board; or

(ii) to continue certification, three hours of pharmacist preceptor training provided by an ACPE approved provider within the pharmacist's current license renewal period. Such training shall be:

(1) developed by a Texas college/school of pharmacy; or

(2) approved by:

(-a-) a committee comprised of the Texas college/schools of pharmacy; or

(-b-) the board; and
(C) meet the requirements of subsection (c) of this section.

(b) Ratio of preceptors to pharmacist-interns.

(1) A preceptor may supervise only one pharmacist-intern at any given time (1:1 ratio) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) The following is applicable to Texas college/school of pharmacy internship program only.

(A) Supervision. Supervision of a pharmacist-intern shall be:

(i) direct supervision when the student-intern or intern-trainee is engaged in functions associated with the preparation and delivery of prescription or medication drug orders; and

(ii) general supervision when the student-intern or intern-trainee is engaged in functions not associated with the preparation and delivery of prescription or medication drug orders.

(B) Exceptions to the 1:1 ratio. There is no ratio requirement for preceptors supervising intern-trainees and student-interns as a part of a Texas college/school of pharmacy program.

(c) No pharmacist may serve as a pharmacist preceptor if his or her license to practice pharmacy has been the subject of an order of the board imposing any penalty set out in the Act, §565.051, during the period he or she is serving as a pharmacist preceptor or within the three-year period immediately preceding application for approval as a pharmacist preceptor. Provided, however, a pharmacist who has been the subject of such an order of the board may petition the board, in writing, for approval to act as a pharmacist preceptor. The board may consider the following items in approving a pharmacist's petition to act as a pharmacist preceptor:

(1) the type and gravity of the offense for which the pharmacist's license was disciplined;

(2) the length of time since the action that caused the order;

(3) the length of time the pharmacist has previously served as a preceptor;

(4) the availability of other preceptors in the area;

(5) the reason(s) the pharmacist believes he/she should serve as a preceptor;

(6) a letter of recommendation from a Texas college/school of pharmacy if the pharmacist will be serving as a pharmacist preceptor for a Texas college/school of pharmacy; and

(7) any other factor presented by the pharmacist demonstrating good cause why the pharmacist should be allowed to act as a pharmacist preceptor.

(d) The fee for issuance of a duplicate or amended preceptor certificate shall be $20.
January 23, 2013

Janelle Nastri  
Enforcement Program Specialist  
Texas State Board of Pharmacy  
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-600  
Austin, Texas 78701-3943

Re: Deborah L. Altsman; Pharmacist License Number 33704  
Petition for Preceptor Approval

Dear Ms. Nastri:

I represent Deborah L. Altsman with respect to the Agreed Board Order (#H-12-053-A) that will be presented to the Board at the February meeting. With this letter, I am petitioning the Board, on Ms. Altsman’s behalf, for a waiver to permit Ms. Altsman to continue to act as a preceptor during the imposition of the administrative penalty.

Pursuant to 22 TAC § 283.6(c), Ms. Altsman requests the Board consider the following items and approve her petition to act as a pharmacist preceptor:

1. The type and gravity of the offense for which the pharmacist's license was disciplined. Ms. Altsman was disciplined for dispensing amoxicillin/clavulanate potassium 400 mg - 57mg/5ml oral suspension (generic for Augmentin) when the new prescription was written for Amoxil 400 mg/5 ml (brand for amoxicillin 400 mg/5ml). The prescription was written for a pediatric patient and the patient’s agent administered one dose before the error was identified. No harm resulted to the patient as a result of the dispensing error. Ms. Altsman has been licensed to practice pharmacy for more than thirty-seven (37) years, and has been licensed in Texas for more than nineteen (19) years. Ms. Altsman has never previously been the subject of an investigation or disciplinary action.

2. The length of time since the action that caused the order. The dispensing error occurred on or about May 25, 2012 and since that time, Ms. Altsman has taken diligent corrective action to ensure the future dispensing errors do not occur.
3. **The length of time the pharmacist has previously served as a preceptor.** Ms. Altsman has served as a preceptor for approximately four (4) years.

4. **The availability of other preceptors in the area.** Although there are other preceptors in the area, Ms. Altsman’s knowledge and experience will provide an invaluable contribution to the training of pharmacy students.

5. **The reason(s) the pharmacist believes he/she should serve as a preceptor.** Ms. Altsman has trained and mentored many pharmacy students who have gone on to become outstanding pharmacists. Ms. Altsman would like to continue to mentor these students who could grow professionally and personally from her direction and supervision. Ms. Altsman’s experience gives her a unique perspective and ability to counsel pharmacy students and recent pharmacy graduates on professional and practical solutions for patient counseling and dispensing prescription pharmaceuticals, as well as over the counter medications and medical aids. Ms. Altsman is further able to share meaningful advice concerning other relevant issues including, but not limited to, counseling mothers in administering medications to children, encouraging elderly patients to achieve compliance with complicated medication regimens and encouraging newly diagnosed diabetic patients to cope with their disease. These pharmacy students would be well served to have a compassionate and considerate mentor and advisor like Ms. Altsman.

6. **A letter of recommendation from a Texas college/school of pharmacy if the pharmacist will be serving as a pharmacist preceptor for a Texas college/school of pharmacy.** A copy of a recommendation letter from Jennifer Ridings-Myhra, Assistant Dean for Experiential and Professional Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, is attached as Exhibit 1.

7. **Any other factor presented by the pharmacist demonstrating good cause why the pharmacist should be allowed to act as a pharmacist preceptor.** Ms. Altsman was licensed in Texas on February 5, 1993. She has upheld the integrity of the profession and, prior to the dispensing error, had never previously been the subject of an investigation or disciplinary action. Ms. Altsman takes seriously her obligations and responsibilities as a pharmacist and a preceptor and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to continue serving as a preceptor to the pharmacy students of The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy.

    I would appreciate your presenting Ms. Altsman’s petition to the Board at the earliest opportunity.

    Sincerely,

    [Signature]

    Mark S. Armstrong

Copy: Deborah L. Altsman, RPh.
January 22, 2013

Texas State Board of Pharmacy
William P. Hobby Bldg., Tower 3, Ste. 600
333 Guadalupe, Box 21
Austin, TX 78701-3942

RE: Deborah L. Altsman
Reinstatement of Preceptor Status

I write to provide information regarding pharmacist Deborah L. Altsman’s request for reinstatement of her preceptor status with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

Ms. Altsman does not have a preceptor faculty appointment through The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, and does not serve as a preceptor of record for any of our students on introductory or advanced practice experiences. However, she works relief for Walgreens in the Austin area, and in this capacity, occasionally supervises UT pharmacy students in experiential rotations. Because of this, it could be beneficial for Ms. Altsman to be reinstated as a preceptor.

This letter is provided for information only, and based on my limited knowledge of Ms. Altsman’s situation. You may feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Regards,

Jennifer L. Ridings-Myhra
Assistant Dean for Experiential and Professional Affairs
ON THIS DAY CAME ON TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE TEXAS STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY ("BOARD") THE MATTER OF PHARMACIST LICENSE NUMBER 33704 ISSUED TO DEBORAH L. ALTSMAN ("RESPONDENT").

By letter dated October 30, 2012, the Board gave preliminary notice to Respondent of its intent to take disciplinary action. This action was taken as a result of an investigation which produced evidence indicating that Respondent may have violated:

Section 565.001(a)(1), (2), (12) and (13) of the Texas Pharmacy Act, Tex. Occ. Code Ann. Title 3, Subtitle J (2011);

Section 281.7(a)(12) and (13); Section 291.31(1), (14) and (15); Section 291.32(c)(1)(E) and (F); Section 291.32(c)(2)(B), (C) and (D); and Section 295.3(b) of the Texas Pharmacy Board Rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code (2012); and


COUNT

On or about May 25, 2012, Deborah L. Altman, while acting as an employee (staff pharmacist) of Walgreen Co. #6189, 12550 Metric Blvd., Austin, Texas 78727, dispensed amoxicillin/clavulanate potassium 400 mg – 57 mg/5ml oral suspension (generic for Augmentin) to patient M.K., a seven-month-old infant, on a new written prescription calling for Amoxil 400 mg/5ml oral suspension (brand for amoxicillin 400 mg/5ml). The prescription bottle was labeled amoxicillin/clavulanate potassium 400 mg – 57 mg/5ml oral suspension. The patient’s agent administered one dose of the incorrect medication before the error was identified. The prescription was assigned prescription number 1659930.

An informal conference was held in the office of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy on December 4, 2012, with Respondent, and Mark S. Armstrong, Legal Counsel for Respondent, in attendance. The informal conference was heard by a Board panel comprised of: Dennis F. Wiesner, R.Ph., Board Member; Gay Dodson, R.Ph., Executive Director/Secretary; with Kerstin E. Arnold, General Counsel. Tyler P. Vance, Staff Attorney, was also in attendance.
At the informal conference, Respondent presented the Board with evidence of completion of 7.5 hours of continuing education certificates through the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

By appearing at the informal conference and by signing this Order, Respondent and Respondent’s counsel neither admit nor deny the truth of the matters previously set out in this Order, and agree that the Board has jurisdiction in this matter and waive the right to notice of hearing, formal administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order.

The parties acknowledge that this Order resolves the allegations set forth herein, and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the ORDER OF THE BOARD below.

**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

THEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board does hereby ORDER that Respondent’s license is hereby reprimanded.
Agreed Board Order #H-12-053-A
Deborah L. Altsman
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And it is so ORDERED.

THIS ORDER IS A PUBLIC RECORD.

SIGNED AND ENTERED ON THIS 5th day of February, 2013.

[Signature]
MEMBER, TEXAS STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Gay Dodson, R.Ph., Executive Director/Secretary
Texas State Board of Pharmacy

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND AGREED TO:

[Signature]
Deborah L. Altsman, R.Ph.

[Signature]
Mark S. Armstrong, Legal Counsel for Deborah L. Altsman
Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.
909 Fannin, Suite 3838
Houston, Texas 77010

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
Kerstin E. Arnold, General Counsel
Texas State Board of Pharmacy