

Transcript for TSBP Talks Podcast Episode 2

Narrator: Welcome to TSBP talks episode 2. Today we'll be discussing the Board rules adopted at the May 2021 Board meeting. And, as always, you can find the relevant documents and links in the show notes based on what we're discussing today. The May adoptions were relatively straightforward and those will go into effect June 9th 2021, so by the time you listen to this recording, they will be in effect. Our first adoption was to Board rule 291.11 operation of a pharmacy. These amendments were largely clerical in nature and corrected citation references to the Texas Pharmacy Act and Board rule 291.3 along with the short title of that rule. You can see the updated citation references in the May Board meeting agenda under the item D.1.1.

Narrator: Our next adoption was actually a group of related rule amendments, and these amendments were concerning the DEA 222 Form requirements to be consistent with federal regulations. The rules affected by this update include Board rules 291.34, 291.75, and 291.76. Also of note, in Board rule 291.34 the language was updated to clarify that a pharmacist may electronically sign the data entry attestation that indicates the pharmacist has reviewed the information for the day, and that it is correct as entered. Previously, the rule only stated that pharmacists must sign, but did not specify electronic signatures were also acceptable. You can find all of these references and language changes under item D.1.2.

Narrator: The next adoptions were also a grouping of related amendments. Board rules 315.3 and 315.5 were both updated to extend the time period for schedule II prescriptions to be valid no longer than 30 days to be consistent with federal law. Previously, these rules specified that schedule II controlled substance prescriptions were only valid for 21 days which obviously conflicted with federal regulation. So, now that has been corrected, and you can find these updates under item D.1.3. And that is actually it for our May 2021 rule adoptions.

Narrator: So, now we'll go over a few important news items. As you may have seen recently on our website, changes are coming to the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program, or Texas PMP, that will affect integration and NARX Care for certain users. The funding provided by Senate Bill 500 from the 86th Texas Legislature back in 2019 that allowed the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to pay for statewide integration and NARX Care has not been renewed during this most recent legislative session- which was the 87th Texas Legislature held during the first half of 2021. Access to the main PMP functionalities will not change. The mandate to check the Texas PMP before the prescribing of opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, or carisoprodol also remains in effect. The funding however will cease beginning September 1st of 2021. The Texas PMP vendor, Appriss Health, recently sent out a message summarizing these changes to PMP users, so we encourage you to go to our website and read that. The link will be in show notes.

Narrator: Another major news item that you may have also seen on our website is the termination of certain temporary rule suspensions. There were several rules suspended by order of the Governor last year because of the pandemic, but many of these will expire, and the affected rules or portions of rules will no longer be suspended beginning September 1st. And again, we encourage you to visit our website and review those affected rules. And I do also want to note that there may be exceptions to the termination of temporary rule suspensions, so if there are any exceptions, we will be sure to note those on our website as well as soon as that information becomes available. And you can visit us at pharmacy.texas.gov/coronavirus for more details. Those rules will be listed on the "temporary rules suspension page" on the menu. And of course, direct links will be available in the show notes.

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Narrator: So, now we'll turn our attention to some recent Board updates. As many of you may know, our executive director, Allison Brenz, is retiring after 27 years of dedicated service to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. We will of course miss her deeply and are so grateful for her service to the practice of pharmacy in Texas and for her dedication to the Board's mission to promote, preserve, and protect the citizens of Texas. That's what we do here, and Allison had contributed so much of her time and expertise to that mission, so we, are as I said, so grateful to have had Allison with the Board all of these years, and serving most recently as our executive director. We are also pleased to announce that Dr. Tim Tucker has been selected by the Board to serve as the next Executive Director to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. His tenure begins September 1st, 2021, and we're very excited for Tim to join our team. He also brings a wealth of experience with him, so we're very lucky to have him.

Narrator: I also want to turn things over to Allison and Tim, so they can tell you a little bit more about themselves. Allison has had a really interesting career here at TSBP and Tim brings so much knowledge with him as he joins our team, so Allison and Tim, I'll turn it over to y'all.

Allison Benz: I'm Allison Benz, and I am the executive director for the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. I have been with the Board since 1994. I've been here 27 years, and I've been the executive director since December of 2017, and I will be retiring at the end of August this year, and I'm very pleased to introduce Tim Tucker who will become the executive director on September 1st.

Tim Tucker: Hello, my name is Tim Tucker. I will be the new executive director effective September 1st. I come from the state of Tennessee. I was a community pharmacy owner there for 32 years, owned a family pharmacy for 54 years as a family. I have previous experience on the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy in the 90s. I was president of the American Pharmacist Association about 12 years ago. I love pharmacy. I'm excited to be in Texas, excited to be serving the citizens of Texas, and working with a professional pharmacy. I look forward to working with the fantastic staff at the Board of Pharmacy, and I hope that you'll reach out to me if there's anything that I can do for you as we continue to serve the citizens of Texas.

Narrator: As I mentioned, and as you've probably gathered, both Allison and Tim have tons of experience in the practice of pharmacy and in service roles, and I would encourage everyone to go take a look at our website- you can find Allison's bio and Tim's bio, read through those, get to know a little bit more about your departing executive director and your incoming executive director. To echo Tim's comment, we're here to promote, preserve, and protect the citizens of Texas and better the practice of pharmacy in the state of Texas, so we want you to know who we are, and how we support that mission on a day-to-day basis. And, of course, those links will be in the show notes if you'd like to take a look at our executive director bios, and you can also take a look at our Board member bios as well to see who sits on the Board at any given time. And that's always updated when there are changes to the Board members.

Narrator: And that will just about wrap up this episode of TSBP talks. Thank you as always for listening. I did want to close out this episode with a note that the Board rules adopted during the August 2021 Board meeting will go into effect sometime in September- that date hasn't been finalized yet, but when those are available, our next podcast episode will also cover those. But, as always, you can also keep an eye on the adoptions, proposals, and rule update summaries on our website- and all of those links will always be in our show notes. Thank you so much for listening, and we hope you tune into our episode.