

Patient Safety Reminder

Pharmacists have a duty to educate their patients about the effects of medications and the importance of exercising caution when operating vehicles of any type [[Board Rule 291.33\(c\)](#)]. It is important for pharmacists to help patients understand how their medications may influence their ability to perform various activities in and outside of the health care environment. Research from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) related to pilots demonstrates the importance of discussions between health care providers and their patients about the potential risks that drugs can create when patients are operating a vehicle in any mode of transportation.

Pharmacists must be aware that some patients may be employed in a position that requires them to operate a vehicle or heavy equipment as a part of their job duties. It is important for pharmacists to work with their patients to recognize that a medication may prevent the patients from meeting employment demands for a period of time. Pharmacists should be sure patient education includes content related to the impact of a medication on the patient's employment, recreational activities, and other aspects of the patient's life. This is particularly important for patients who may be starting a new medication. Information to share with patients may be obtained from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drug-impaired-driving>

For more information on the NTSB study, please visit the NTSB's website: <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1401.pdf>