Communiqué

June 2016

The Victorian Pharmacy Authority (the "Authority") met on 14 June 2016 at the Authority offices.

This communiqué contains a summary of recent Panel Hearings.

Panel Hearings

During May, four Panel Hearings were held into allegations that licensees had failed to meet their responsibilities.

Case 1.

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises in that there was:

- Failure to ensure that records of all transactions in Schedule 8 poisons showed the true and accurate balance of each Schedule 8 poison remaining in their possession after each transaction;
- Failure to keep Schedule 8 safes locked at all times to prevent unauthorised access;
- Failure to maintain current editions of mandatory references;
- Failure to maintain a pharmacotherapy procedure manual detailing procedures in place at the pharmacy;
- Failure to maintain dedicated prescription reception and counselling points fitted with opaque privacy screens.

The proprietor was reprimanded and a condition placed on their pharmacy business licence requiring quarterly submission of pharmacy self-audits to the Authority for a period of twelve months.

Case 2.

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises in that there was:

- Failure to ensure that records of all transactions in Schedule 8 poisons showed the true and accurate balance of each Schedule 8 poison remaining in their possession after each transaction;
- Failure to maintain adequate security alarm coverage of all areas where scheduled poisons are stored;
- Failure to routinely apply mandatory sedation warnings to dose administration aids where required;
- Failure to maintain dose administration filling records in accordance with Pharmacy Board of Australia Guidelines;
- Failure to ensure the identity of medicines supplied to clients of the pharmacy cannot be known by other persons present in the pharmacy;
- Failure to maintain privacy and confidentiality when disposing of records and containers;
- Failure to maintain a temperature data logger in the dispensary refrigerator.

Several of the matters had been raised in a previous inspection.

The proprietor were reprimanded and a condition placed on their pharmacy business licence requiring quarterly submission of pharmacy self-audits to the Authority for a period of twelve months. The Authority also ordered that the pharmacy be re-inspected at the proprietor's cost, the fee for which is currently $322.35.

Case 3.

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises, and many deficiencies noted during the inspection had also been noted during the previous inspection.

These included failure to maintain current editions of mandatory references, failure to repair dispensing scales, failure to implement a procedure for temperature monitoring of the drug refrigerator and failure to update the balance on hand of Schedule 8 pharmacotherapy medicines at least daily. There was also inadequate lighting maintained in the dispensary and dose administration aid filling area.

The proprietor was cautioned.

Case 4.

The proprietor was found to have failed to comply with the Act and/or there was a failure of good pharmaceutical practice at the registered premises in that there was a failure to ensure that records of all transactions in Schedule 8 poisons showed the true and accurate balance of each Schedule 8 poison remaining in their possession after each transaction.

There was also a failure to maintain dedicated prescription reception and counselling points fitted with opaque privacy screens, and failure to maintain a temperature data logger in the drug refrigerator.

The proprietor was reprimanded.

Toni Riley
Chair