June 10, 2020

Philip J. Trapskin
[redacted]
[redacted]

RE: Variance Request per Wis. Stat. § 450.02(3m)

Dear Mr. Trapskin,

On March 25, 2020, the Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board granted a variance of Wis. Stat. § 450.03(1), to allow pharmacists who are licensed in good standing in other states, United States territories, and the District of Columbia to practice pharmacy in the state of Wisconsin without a Wisconsin license. The stated purpose of the request was to compensate for a shortage of pharmacy staff during the COVID-19 emergency. Subsequently, the provisions of that variance were superseded by Emergency Order #16, and it was rescinded on April 3, 2020. Subsequent to Emergency Order #16, 2019 Wis. Act 185 was signed into law. The state of emergency expired on May 11, 2020, and any temporary licenses issued pursuant to 2019 Wis. Act 185 expire on June 10, 2020.

On June 4, 2020, the Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board reviewed this variance and your request to reissue the variance permitting out-of-state license holders to practice pharmacy in Wisconsin without a Wisconsin license. The Board considered the evidence presented and determined that the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 450.02(3m)(a) have been met. The Board hereby reissues this variance subject to the following requirements: Any person with a valid and current license to practice pharmacy issued by another state may practice under that license and within the scope of that license in Wisconsin without first obtaining a temporary or permanent license from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), so long as the following conditions are met:

1. The practice is necessary to ensure the continued and safe delivery of health care services;
2. The pharmacist is not currently under investigation and does not currently have any restrictions or limitations placed on their license by their credentialing state or any other jurisdiction;
3. The needs addressed reasonably prevented in-state credentialing in advance of practice;
4. The pharmacist practicing under this section must apply for a temporary or permanent license within 30 days of first working in reliance on this variance; and
5. A health care facility or pharmacy must notify DSPS at dspw@wisconsin.gov within 10 days of a pharmacist practicing at its facility or pharmacy in reliance on this variance.

This variance shall apply to all persons licensed in good standing to practice pharmacy in another state, United States territory, and the District of Columbia, and shall remain in effect from June 10, 2020 to August 1, 2020, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 450.02(3m)(b), unless modified or extended by further action of the Pharmacy Examining Board.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jameson R. Whitney
Legal Counsel, Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board
608-266-8098 jameson.whitney@wisconsin.gov