

# ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy  
and Drug Law Compliance.*

## Board Transitioning to New Database

The Alabama State Board of Pharmacy will transition to a new database in October of this year. The new system and the renewal process will look different. The system will be more user-friendly,

easier to navigate, and more intuitive. However, the change will require licensees to create a new account to renew licenses, permits, and registrations.

## Pharmacist Renewals

Pharmacist licenses require renewal by December 31, 2024. The online renewal portal will open in October 2024. Pharmacists are required to complete 30 hours of continuing education (CE) each renewal cycle, with six of those hours as live education. The ability to carry over extra hours from a previous renewal cycle is no longer allowable. Please ensure that all required hours are completed no later than December 31, 2024. Monthly Board meetings may be

attended for Alabama CE credit only. Each meeting is worth one live hour. Pharmacists may receive a maximum of three live hours each calendar year for attending a Board meeting.

**Attendees of Board meetings, in person or virtually, may receive credit by following the procedures listed below:**

- Full name must be displayed on Webex, and you must sign in individually.

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## Pharmacist Renewals

(continued)

- To claim your credit, you will need to complete a SignUpGenius survey.
- **The SignUpGenius link can be found on the Board's website under About Us → Board Meetings**
- SignUpGenius passcode will be available during the executive session and **close** at 11:59 PM the day after the Board meeting.
- Once SignUpGenius is completed, you will receive a confirmation email with details. Please retain this email for your CE records.

## Reciprocity Update

During the June Board meeting, the five-member Board made the motion to draft a policy statement clarifying Alabama's reciprocity licensing requirements. The policy statement was presented during the July Board meeting for final approval and included the following:

- a. A pharmacist is eligible to reciprocate to Alabama if he/she has:
  - 1) an active license in any state, and
  - 2) licensure by exam confirmed in any state, regardless of whether that license is active
- b. Once Alabama licensure is obtained via reciprocity, maintaining your home state license is not required.

## USP <800> Compliance

On September 20, 2023, the five-member Board adopted Policy 23-005, United States Pharmacopeia (USP) <800> Compliance Enforcement. The policy stated

USP <800> was enforceable on November 1, 2023. The Board recognized that pharmacies needed time to fully implement the requirements of USP <800> and

would allow investigators to use discretionary enforcement during inspections regarding compliance.

## Board Policy Statements

All Board policy statements are available for viewing on the website, [www.albop.com](http://www.albop.com).

Please find policy statements here: [Statutes & Rules > View Policy Statements](#)

# Compounding of Semaglutide

Semaglutide powder is being advertised to physician offices, pharmacies, and the public for purchase from innumerable sources. Much of this semaglutide is **not** prescription quality. The outlets are selling semaglutide salt forms and research grade powder. These salt forms and research grade powders are **not** approved by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) nor are they evaluated for safety. As such, the only powder that should be used in compounding is the prescription quality powder. Pharmacists are required to purchase and use

only prescription quality active pharmaceutical ingredients when compounding a drug for human consumption. Outlets attempting to sell glucagon-like peptide-1 powder or products to practitioners in Alabama must have the appropriate permit from the Board. At this time, 503B outsourcers may not supply medications to pharmacies for delivery to patients. In June 2023, FDA released draft guidance to remove the prohibition on wholesaling under 503B. However, this is a **draft** only and specifically states the draft contains

nonbinding recommendations and is not for implementation. Physicians, pharmacists, and the public can validate that a supplier has an active permit with the Board by utilizing the License Verification feature on the Board website, [www.albop.com](http://www.albop.com).

Please find the license verification feature here: [Search For A License > Business Lookup > Enter requested information > See Status for status of Alabama permit](#)



## DEA Reminder

Board staff has been aware of a misconception by some pharmacists. When a prescription is written with a “Do Not Fill Before” or a specific “Fill on” this date, you must strictly adhere to the physician’s written comment. Some pharmacists were of the understanding that if the date

stated by the physician was on a weekend or when the pharmacy was closed, the pharmacist could fill the prescription early. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has confirmed this is **not** the case. There is no allowance for filling early based on store hours, weekends, or holidays.

## Technician Rule

The Board has hosted many work groups over the past several months to evaluate the current language in 680-X-2-14 – The Role of Technicians in Pharmacies. The five-member Board continues to discuss potential changes to this rule at monthly Board meetings. Practitioners are encouraged to email comments regarding potential rule changes to Dr Anne Marie Nolen at [anolen@albop.com](mailto:anolen@albop.com). Please stay up to date on potential changes by attending Board meetings (in person or virtually).

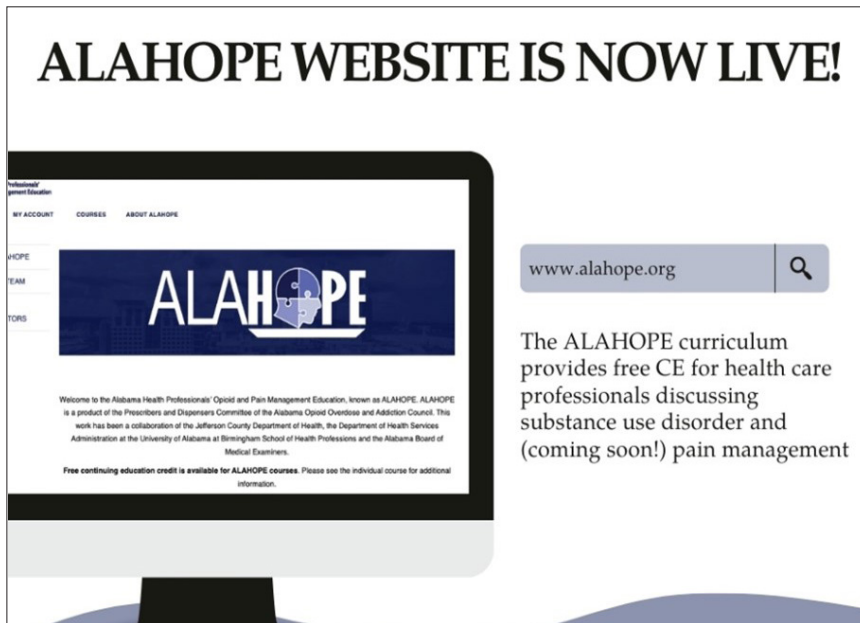
# ALAHOPE

Over the last three years, many hours have gone into the concept and development of the ALAHOPE curriculum – an effort to offer resources and training for medication prescribers,

dispensers, and other medical personnel. The site is now live and ready to use, share, and implement in your health profession’s educational program or in your practice.

**Free CE credit is available for ALAHOPE courses** and has been approved for physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and social workers. Please see the individual course for additional information. Additional lectures are forthcoming.

You may access the ALAHOPE site at [www.alahope.org](http://www.alahope.org). You will need to make sure this site is not blocked at your institution, and pop-up blockers will need to be disabled to fully access the content. Unit 1: Substance Use is now ready and operational. Coming soon: Unit 2: Pain Management!



## COACH Initiative

Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy’s Center for Opioid Research, Education, and Outreach (COACH) is interested and excited to partner with local pharmacists to share much-needed information regarding substance use disorders (SUDs) and the pharmacy profession across Alabama. As part of Auburn University’s 2023 Tiger Giving Day Initiative, COACH developed

and presented SUD prevention education and pharmacy profession information to over 1,000 middle school students across Alabama. COACH is ready and able to provide an educational “toolkit” to pharmacists interested in partnering. The toolkit includes presentation slides, an education facilitation guide, a supplies list, and a list of resources. Education currently available is best suited

for fifth-ninth grade learners; however, the materials could be easily modified to suit any desired grade level student or community member. If you are interested in partnering with COACH, please email [coach@auburn.edu](mailto:coach@auburn.edu). Additional information about the program is accessible by visiting <https://auburncoach.org/2023-tiger-giving-day-initiative/>.

# Immediate Action Required: 680-X-2-.23 Drug Manufacturers; Wholesale Distributors; Private Label Distributors, Repackagers, Third-Party Logistics Providers, Outsourcing Facilities; Reverse Distributors; Retail Medical Oxygen Suppliers

The Board extended a final 45-day grace period for your facility to comply with this rule. Failure to submit the application for registration **before August 2, 2024**, will result in disciplinary action for your facility. Your facility will remain on administrative hold until such time as you are compliant. While on administrative hold, you may not ship or conduct business in or into Alabama.

9)(a)(1): All designated representatives shall register with the Alabama State Board of Pharmacy. The initial registration fee and renewal fee shall be one hundred dollars (\$100). All designated representatives shall pay the renewal fee annually with this fee being due on October 31 and delinquent after December 31 annually. All designated representative registrations shall expire on December 31 annually. If the renewal is not timely received by the board, the applicant shall pay a penalty of fifty dollars (\$50) for each month the renewal is late.

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