

**North Carolina Board of Pharmacy
Durable Medical Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Minutes - April 26, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by William Griffin. Present for the meeting were Betty Dennis, Mel Elliott, and via telephone, Joey McLaughlin, Karen Womack, and Clint Pinyan, Board Counsel. Also present were Karen Matthew, Krystal Brashears, Wendy Watson, and Connie Manion.

The ethics statement was read by Mr. Griffin.

The minutes for the meeting of April 27, 2010, were approved after asking for a change in the minutes to reflect that “prn” on a prescription by a physician means the prescription be refilled for no more than one (1) year for equipment and medical devices. Mr. Pinyan pointed out that most prescriptions for medical devices and equipment were usually limited to one year for the patient. After a motion by Mr. Elliott, seconded by Dr. Dennis, the minutes were approved by all present.

Old Business:

The Committee was informed that the meeting which had been scheduled for January 2011 for a pre-hearing conference was cancelled because a consent order had been negotiated with Aeroflow, and was approved by the full Board of Pharmacy at its April 2011 meeting, thus negating the need for a hearing.

New Business:

Karen Womack was recognized for her five (5) years of service to the committee, and was informed a plaque had been ordered in recognition for her service, and would be mailed to her.

The DME election process for a representative for Medical Oxygen Supplier to replace Ms. Womack was discussed. Emails will be sent out to all in-state current DME permits concerning the election, and voting will take place from June 1 through June 30, 2011. If no run-off is needed, the election will be certified by the full Board at its July 2011 meeting, and the new representative will be seated at the next DME meeting.

Wendy Watson reviewed statistics following the 2011 renewal season which concluded March 1, 2011. She stated that 805 DME permits were active and 44 DMEs did not renew their permit with the Board for 2011. Mr. Griffin asked if a DME company would be fined for late renewal, and Mr. Pinyan advised the Board brings disciplinary actions for operating a DME without a current permit. He stated for example, in one case, the Board issued a suspension on a DME permit for five (5) months; the same length of time the DME operated without holding a current permit.

Ms. Matthew stated nine (9) inspections of DMEs had been conducted so far in 2011. Since investigators' areas had been realigned, they would have more opportunity to conduct inspections.

She also noted that an email would be sent out to all DME committee members about the next meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned after a motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Dr. Dennis, and was approved by all.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting date for DME subcommittee will be sent to the members via email and held at the Board office at 10:30 a.m.

Betty Dennis

Mel Elliott

William (Bill) H. Griffin (Via Telephone)

Robert (Joey) McLaughlin, Jr. (Via Telephone)

Karen Womack (Via Telephone)