

(FINAL/APPROVED 9/3/08)

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF PHARMACY
MINUTES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

June 19, 2008
Second Floor
Board Room 1

Department of Health Professions
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23233

- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of an informal conference committee of the Board of Pharmacy was called to order at 10:25am.
- PRESIDING:** Bobby Ison, Committee Chairman
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** John O. Beckner
- STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth Scott Russell, Executive Director
Caroline D. Juran, Deputy Executive Director
- Dana Anderson
License # 0201-001251
- Mr. Anderson, Michael Nyame-Mireku, Dominic Conti, and Terry Farnsworth were present to discuss the application, received April 25, 2008, for approval of a robotic pharmacy system wherein a pharmacist would be required to check or verify accuracy of only a reduced percentage of drug dispensed by the robot at Virginia Hospital Center Arlington Pharmacy.
- Decision:** After consideration of the application and statements concerning the robotic pharmacy system, Mr. Ison stated that the Committee approved the robotic pharmacy system for a period of three years from the date of implementation, contingent upon verifying references and receiving favorable responses, and contingent upon other terms and conditions. Mr. Ison stated that possible terms and conditions may include:
1. Virginia Hospital Center Arlington Pharmacy shall notify the Board of the implementation date of the program;
 2. Pharmacists shall verify accuracy of 100% of all data entered into the packaging and overwrapping robots and will be responsible for transferring drug from stock bottles into the pill box canister after verifying accuracy of selected drug; Pharmacy technicians may transfer drug into the phialbox used for overwrapping, but pharmacists shall verify the accuracy of all selected drugs; Pharmacists shall document the verification of drugs during the packaging and overwrapping process by recording their initials/name in the robotic pharmacy system, and such documentation shall be maintained in an accessible format for 3 years from the date of packaging/overwrapping; Packaging and labeling, including the appropriate beyond-use date, shall conform to Board of Pharmacy regulations and to current USP-NF standards;
 3. Pharmacists shall perform a daily check of drugs picked by the robot for 100% of all patients' bins for the initial 2 weeks from

implementation of said program; After two weeks of perfect accuracy while performing 100% check, the pharmacy may move to a 10% check in which pharmacists shall perform a daily random check of medications picked by the robot for 10% of all patients' bins and 10% of all first doses or cart updates. Documentation of this check shall include the pharmacist's initials for each medication checked and a description of all discrepancies found. If the robot picks an incorrect medication, the hospital shall immediately institute a 100% check of all patients' bins or doses and shall immediately report this problem to the Board. This 100% check procedure shall continue until the Board allows the pharmacy to return to a reduction in checking.

4. All records for the robot shall be maintained on the premises for at least three years. These records shall include, but are not limited to packaging logs, random patient check logs, and copies of the quality assurance reports sent to the Board. All records shall be available for review by the Board or its designated representative;

5. Quality assurance reports showing the accuracy of the robot shall be forwarded to the Board for the three-year time period by the last day of the months of March, June, September, and December. These reports shall include but are not limited to, a summary of all discrepancies found during that quarter plus a cumulative summary since approval of the application. The reports shall indicate the total number of doses picked by the robot which were checked in conducting the 10% patient bin check, 10% cart updates check, and 10% first dose check; and, the total number of doses dispensed by the robot during the same time period. The reports shall also include notification for any scheduled or unanticipated downtime with an explanation of the problem to include the time span of the downtime and the resolution. Unanticipated downtime shall be immediately reported to the Board. Additionally, the report shall include discrepancies on the packaging portion of the robotic system. After six months of operation under this order with no reports of the robot picking the wrong drug, Virginia Hospital Center Arlington Pharmacy may petition the board to consider reducing the 10% pharmacist check requirement;

6. Virginia Hospital Center Arlington Pharmacy shall be subject to one random, unannounced inspection by the Board or its designated representatives, within the three-year period. This inspection is independent from any routine inspection of your pharmacy. Virginia Hospital Center Arlington Pharmacy shall be solely responsible for the payment of an inspection fee of \$150.00, to be paid to the Board within thirty days from the date of the statement of monies owed that will be mailed following the inspection;

7. Any operational changes or modifications to the robot system shall be approved by the Board prior to initiation of the

modification;

8. Reports of significant robot errors or failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the waiver as set forth above shall constitute grounds for the rescission of the approval and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether the approval should be rescinded or modified.

ADJOURN:

With all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15pm.

Caroline D. Juran, Deputy Executive Director

Bobby Ison, Chairman

Date