Proposed National and CA Legislation will Deny a Pharmacist’s Right to Refuse

by Seena Zierler-Brown

In 2002, California became one of six states that allow women to obtain emergency contraception (EC) directly from a pharmacist without requiring a prescription from her doctor or health care provider.

Senate Bill 490 (chapter 651, statutes of 2003) allows pharmacists to dispense emergency contraception based on a statewide protocol adopted by the California State Board of Pharmacy, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Medical Board of California. Pharmacists may operate under such protocol upon completion of a one-hour continuing education program, which is now a requirement of the law.

Previously, Senate Bill 1169, Chapter 900, Statutes of 2001, allowed pharmacists to dispense EC based on a protocol with a single licensed prescriber. Protocols that were developed with a single prescriber remain intact after the introduction of Senate Bill 490. The statutory provisions for pharmacists providing EC are contained in the California Business and Professions Code section 4052.

Section 4052 (a)(8)(ii) is satisfied by a protocol that addressed the following areas: purpose, procedure, fact sheet, referrals and supplies, advanced provision, selection, documentation, and training. Requirements for patient medical records are held pursuant to Section 1707.1 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. Under this protocol the pharmacist may dispense emergency contraception for a patient in advance of the need of EC.

On December 6, 2004, an assembly bill AB 21 was introduced to amend Section 4069 concerning the business and professional code of a pharmacist regarding dispensing contraceptive or EC in the state of California (Section 4052). This bill would prohibit a pharmacist from declining to dispense a contraceptive or emergency contraceptive.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 4069 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4069. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a pharmacist shall not decline to dispense a contraceptive or emergency contraceptive pursuant to a prescription.

The precedent of whether to support a pharmacist’s right to refuse has been challenged in the past. In July 1999, at the request of the American Pharmaceutical Association (now the American Pharmacists Association), the New Jersey Pharmacists Association passed a resolution urging the Board of Pharmacy to recognize “the individual pharmacist’s right to exercise conscientious refusal” while urging the establishment of a process that would ensure patients’ access to legally prescribed therapy.

The 1999 resolution:

No. 100-12-04 whereas, the use of emergency contraception is being more prevalent; and

Whereas, some pharmacists are reluctant to dispense prescriptions for such products due to ethical, moral, or religious considerations; and

Whereas, patients have the right to make decisions regarding their health care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NABP recommends that if a pharmacist refuses to fill a prescription for emergency contraception on ethical, moral, or religious grounds, it is the responsibility of that pharmacist to direct the patient to another pharmacist or pharmacy where such a prescription can be dispensed in a timely manner.

Some states like Illinois and South Dakota have enacted conscience clause laws similar to those that shield physicians. A pharmacist conscience clause would:

I. Permit a pharmacist to refuse to fill prescriptions for drugs he/she does not agree with and

II. In some instances, this refusal may occur without having to ensure that the prescription can be realistically filled elsewhere.

California is also developing collaborative practice agreements for contraceptive selection and dispensing in addition to EC. Illinois pharmacists are facing a challenge similar to those in California since Governor Rod Blagojevich issued an emergency executive order requiring all state pharmacists fill prescriptions for EC if it is available at their pharmacy to be dispensed.

For more information on the proposed legislation, or to get involved in the legislative process in California regarding this issue, please contact Natalie Will-
School/College of Pharmacy CPFI Award Recipients
South Dakota College of Pharmacy
$1,000 CPFI Scholarship by Gerald and Bonnie Heit
Awarded to: Joan Viets from Sidney, MT.
Wingate University School of Pharmacy
(2) $500 CPFI Scholarships
Awarded to: Nicole Harris and Rebecca Shore from Charlotte, NC.

NCPA 2004 Presidential Scholarship
Sara Massey, University of Arkansas

NCPA Partners in Pharmacy (PIP) Scholarship
Cristine Novicky, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Joshua Kinsey, Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy

Grants
Robert M. Cisneros, Campbell University
“The Impact of a Pharmacy Curriculum on Measures of Critical Thinking and
Self-Directed Learning” from AACP’s New Investigators Program (NIP)
Paul Jungnickel, Auburn University
He was a co-recipient of a HCOP grant in partnership with Alabama A&M
University that focuses on facilitating pursuit of health professions
education by disadvantaged elementary, secondary and college students.

Promotions
Patricia Ayuk-Egbe, Howard University, promoted to Associate Professor
Betsy A. Flynn, Auburn University
Invited to serve on the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on Drug Safety.
Johnnie L. Early II, Dean of the University of Toledo College of Pharmacy
Received the The Wendell T. Hill Award from The Association of Black
Health-System Pharmacists (ABHP) - the highest honor given by the ABHP.
This award recognizes professional practice, leadership, education and
research by an ABHP member.

Welcome OUR NEW CPFI MEMBERS

January 1 - March 31, 2005 (1st quarter of 2005)

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Due to space limitations, the Global Health Organization Mission Trip
Calendar could not be included.

To view the calendar, please visit our web site at cpfi.org or
Christian Medical and Dental Association’s web site at cmda.org

Greetings from your President

Final plans have been made for our annual meeting to be held at
Springmaid Beach, SC, from Sunday, June 12th through Wednesday, June
15th. We will be able to receive up to 12 CE hours on Monday, Tuesday, and
Wednesday. The meeting will start with registration Sunday afternoon,
dinner, worship, and fellowship.

Please bring your family and attend this 18th annual meeting. The rates for
the hotel will be honored by Springmaid if you want to come early.
The facility is completely booked after June 15th. If you come early, you
may want to stop by the Board of Directors meeting on Friday night,
June 10th, and most of the day on Saturday, June 11th.

At the business meeting Tuesday night, June 14th, new officers will be installed.
Please call Dan Spador 501-888-2174 (home) 501-686-6491 (work) or e-mail
spadorodw@cs.com and volunteer for
an office. Positions that will need to be filled are: president, vice-president,
secretary, treasurer, and four three-year spots on the board. Pray about where
the Lord would have you serve.

GREAT NEWS! Our office in Blountville, TN, has been given
exempt status for county taxes. The county office first turned down our
request for exemption from taxes. Allan appealed the decision, went to
court and testified before the judge
that we were a non-profit religious
organization. After several weeks the
judge ruled we were an exempt
organization and we will not have to
pay county taxes any more. Praise the
Lord!

We have a new person helping in the
office. Usually when you call the office you will hear the voice of Lisa
Chapman. Lisa has caught on to the
needs of the office very quickly and
is a big help to Allan. Welcome
aboard, Lisa!! (see her story in this
newsletter).

Please be in prayer for our meeting in
June and for your part in the meeting.
May the Lord continue to bless each of
you and your families...
Help Introduce a Student to CPFI

The CPFI Board has set a goal of fostering greater student participation in our organization. We would like to see more students at our annual meeting, but for many, the cost is prohibitive. Please consider sponsoring a student to attend the CPFI Annual Meeting in Springmaid Beach, SC. On the meeting registration form you can write-in a donation for student attendance. By sending in a little extra to help fund students to attend, $25, $50, $100 or more, or whatever you can give would help students experience a pharmacy meeting with a Christian focus. You can also call the CPFI office and register over the phone and indicate that you wish to donate money for student attendance. Even if you can’t attend the meeting this year, you can write in an amount on the registration form and indicate it is for student meeting registration. Students interested in attending the annual meeting must contact CPFI (cpfi.org) prior to the meeting if they wish to receive financial support. The available funds will be split equally amongst the students who attend the meeting. Help invest in the future of CPFI by supporting our students.

Mission Moment

Bangkok is a rather intimidating place for a country boy like me who is much more at home in a place like Chaingklang, but we are adapting to it. It is really the only metropolis in Thailand. The next largest city, Chiangmai, has a population of no more than 300,000. We will be here until mid June studying language. Hopefully, we will be able to function more effectively in our assignment with improved language skills, although the people in the North speak a dialect called Northern Thai. We have to study Central Thai, which is the official language of the country that is taught in all the schools. With this background we hope to be able to more easily adapt to Northern Thai when we return to the Clinic and the ministry with the hill tribes, especially the Lua. Right now, a career International Mission Board (IMB) missionary nurse, Jeri Whitfield, is overseeing the work of the clinic. When we return I will probably take over oversight of the pharmacy and any other areas that Jeri would like me to. Our primary focus however will be to work more directly with the Lua, hopefully being able to disciple and train new Christians in this tribe to be equipped to run their own churches when we leave. This assignment is quite a stretch for us since the language barrier is very real and we are not trained cross-cultural witnesses. I find that I can talk to people here in Bangkok much easier than those up North where God has put us. We are going into this assignment with an open mind, just trusting God to use us however He can the next three years. At that time our assignment ends, and we will be going home, unless God directs us somewhere else. But three more years is all the International Mission Board will allow us to continue working where we are. If we go home at that time, that will be all right. When stateside I found I enjoyed very much being a real pharmacist again, although it was in a part-time capacity. I think I would enjoy very much doing that again in three years, and going on volunteer missions projects as the opportunities arose. Plus, we also would very much enjoy being close to children and grandchildren again. Although it seems God may be leading our son to get involved in overseas missions in some capacity, possibly in this same area of the world. Time will tell. In the meantime thank you for remembering us in your prayers, and we want to remember any special requests you may have too, so please let us know how we can pray for you.

In Him,

Brooks

Brooks & Brenda Harrell
PO Box 832
Bangkok 10501
Thailand
66-2-675-4192
brmissions@pobox.com

If any CPFI members would like to receive updates on Brooks and Brenda’s ministry, please e-mail them at brmissions@pobox.com and you will be added to their email distribution list.

Right to Refuse from page 1

Iams, Legislative Consultant at California Family Alliance @ 916.759.0468 or californiafamily.org

Recently, Senate Bill 809, the Access to Legal Pharmaceuticals Act, or ALPhA, was introduced and a companion bill S. 809 was also introduced in the House. The proposed legislation states that access to legal contraception is a fundamental right in the US. Please contact your local representatives in the House and Senate and voice your opinions regarding these bills. Let our Christian voices be heard!

APhA (and possibly other pharmacy organizations) have already adopted a conscience clause regarding this issue.

Editor’s Comment:

Well, now that I am going back into the dispensing world, this is an issue. If a physician can refuse to perform an abortion, if a lawyer can refuse to take a client, if a restaurant can refuse to serve customers with “no shoes, no shirt”, why can I not refuse to fill a prescription? This whole thing just makes me sick. I guess I’ll end up working in long term care or hospital if it comes to that. This is an issue for the professional organizations to take on...I have the right to refuse to fill a prescription if, in my professional judgment, that Rx endangers the life of the patient. An Rx for an abortion certainly qualifies as putting my patient at risk, does it not?

Weeping at the depravity of our world...

Kurt Grady, CPFI Assistant Editor

Annual Meeting
June 10 - 15, 2005

The CPFI Annual meeting is back at Myrtle Beach. Attending this annual meeting is a must! There will be plenty of family activities, food, prayer, and of course CE! Come and enjoy a pharmacy program from a Christian perspective.

Make sure and bring a friend (or two!).
ACCP Prayer Breakfast a Success

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The annual CPFI Breakfast for attendees of the Annual Meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy was held on Monday, October 25, 2004 in Dallas, Texas. This was the first time in many years that we held a breakfast rather than a luncheon.

The speaker for the program was Vicki S. Crane BSPharm MBA FASHP, Vice President of the Pharmaceutical Services at Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Crane’s topic was on “Adventures in Faith” taken from the book of Joshua, Chapters 3-6. She related how the tests that Joshua faced were related to our work as well as other fields of work in which the attendees might labor.

Tim Welty PharmD shared with the group a great opportunity for faculty and students to get involved in indigent and local missions. His friend, Bruce Jackson, just took the position of executive director of the Christian Community Healthcare Foundation, www.cchf.org. He is interested in getting pharmacists involved not only in providing care, but also developing pharmacy programs and researching important issues in providing indigent care. They are all Christian run organizations and pharmacists need to get many of the grants that support these clinics and programs. Dr. Welty emphasized that it is another opportunity to live out your Christian witness.

It was encouraging to see 23 guests in all, with encouraging remarks like, “I was just glad to meet others with the same focus and passion in their areas of pharmacy practice” and “The fellowship is much more important than the food!”

Thanks to the excellent speaker, Vicki Crane, and the time for fellowship.

Blessings,
Harvey Whitney, Jr.

Prayer Requests

Norma Robinson would like to thank everyone who has prayed for her back. After nonsurgical interventions failed, Norma had surgery on Monday, February 14th (what a Valentine’s day present!). Please pray for her back to completely heal. Norma said the surgeons told her she would never be free from pain, but we know that all things are possible with You, so please also pray for the pain to completely end.

Harvey Whitney has been moved from a hospital in St. Louis back to his home. His family would like to thank CPFI members for their prayers and would appreciate all members to continue praying for our Brother Harvey as he continues to improve.

Welcome Lisa Chapman to the CPFI Team

Lisa Chapman joined CPFI as Administrative Assistant in November 2004. She has experienced God’s hand in her life many times and knows that God led her to CPFI. She wanted to thank us for allowing her to serve CPFI for as long as she is able.

Lisa has two wonderful children. Her daughter Jessica is 14 and will be starting high school this fall. Her son Eric is 20 and attends a local community college majoring in Engineering. Lisa is also a student and has been accepted into the Dental Hygiene at East Tennessee State University.

In addition to living with her two children, she lives with her two black and white cats, Ricky and Lucy and a Miniature Schnauzer named Chloe.

Lisa was born in Germany and was adopted by a military family. God has blessed her by giving her the opportunity to find her birth mother 13 years ago and she has maintained a close relationship with her. She has lived in many places as a child and adult, but considers Tennessee home.

Lisa attends Celebration Church in Blountville and is a volunteer with the Kitchen of Hope, an organization that provides a daily balanced meal for the needy in the Kingsport area. She will be joining the Medical Missions team at Celebration Church once she has a BS in Dental Hygiene.