REGULATION ON DRUG WARNINGS APPROVED

The California State Board of Pharmacy announces the formal adoption of an amendment to section 1744 of Article 5 of Division 17 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), related to drug warnings. The regulation has been filed with the California Secretary of State and is effective April 1, 2017.

The amended regulation requires a pharmacist to include a <u>written</u> label on prescription drug containers indicating that the drug may impair a user's ability to operate a vehicle or vessel. In addition, the regulation requires a pharmacist to include a <u>written</u> label on prescription drug containers of drugs that pose a substantial risk to the person consuming the drug when taken in combination with alcohol.

The regulation also identifies specific classes of drugs that may impair a person's ability to drive a vehicle or vessel, and classes of drugs that pose a substantial risk to users when taken in combination with alcohol. In addition, a written label on the drug container must be included for "any other drug which, based upon the pharmacist's professional judgment," may impair a patient's ability to operate a vehicle or vessel or may pose a substantial risk to the person consuming the drug when taken in combination with alcohol.

The board amended CCR section 1744 pursuant to provisions of Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 4074 that were amended by AB 1136 (Levine, Chapter 304, Statutes of 2013).

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