

## **NEW PENNSYLVANIA PHARMACY REGULATION APPROVED— “PHARMACISTS BREAKS”**

On Saturday, December 10, 2009, the following regulation was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. With that publication, this regulation became effective.

The prescription area of a pharmacy may not be open without a licensed pharmacist on duty at all times.



### **A SOLE PHARMACIST-ON-DUTY MAY TAKE UP TO A 30-MINUTE BREAK WHILE THE PHARMACY REMAINS OPEN, CONSISTENT WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

- ◆ The pharmacist shall remain in the pharmacy or, in the case of a pharmacy located within a retail establishment or institution, in the immediate building containing the pharmacy, and shall be accessible for emergencies or for counseling, if requested. For purpose of this paragraph, the term “immediate building” means the physical structure that contains the pharmacy.
- ◆ In an institution, the pharmacist must remain in the building containing the pharmacy, so that, in institutions on a campus with multiple buildings, the pharmacist could not go to another building during his/her break.
- ◆ A pharmacy located at a complex, consisting of multiple retail and other business establishments, such as a mall, is **NOT** considered to be “located within a retail establishment.” In that case, the entire store containing the pharmacy is licensed, and the pharmacist shall remain in the store during a break.

The pharmacy may remain open during the pharmacist’s break for patient-related services, including:

- ◆ The receipt of new, written prescriptions
- ◆ The preparation of prescriptions for final verification by the pharmacist
- ◆ The delivery of prescription medications that have been verified by the pharmacist