The Board of Registration in Pharmacy (“Board”) would like to remind licensees of the laws and regulations regarding the sale of hypodermic syringes and needles. Please note carefully, M.G.L. c. 94C, § 27 authorizes pharmacists to sell syringes and needles to any person, without a prescription, who has attained the age of 18. **A pharmacist may sell hypodermic syringes and hypodermic needles without a prescription to any person that provides identification to validate the person is 18 years or older.**

Currently, many pharmacies sell syringes and needles without a prescription. The Board strongly supports all pharmacy efforts to date to provide access to sterile needles and syringes as vital to the protection of the public health of all Massachusetts residents. As pharmacists are aware, residents of the Commonwealth utilize sterile needles and syringes for a variety of conditions.

The legislation does not limit the number or type of syringes and needles that may be sold to any one customer. Other than proof of age, **no other requirement or limitation exists to prevent a customer from acquiring hypodermic syringes and needles.**

**Recommended Action:**
- The pharmacy must obtain proper photo identification from the customer requesting a purchase of hypodermic syringes and needles without a prescription.
- The pharmacy must evaluate the legitimacy of the identification provided and ensure the customer is 18 years or older.
- If the customer is 18 years or older, and has proper identification, the pharmacy should complete the sale of requested hypodermic syringes and/or needles without any further requirements or record keeping.
- There is no need to restrict the quantity or type (i.e. IM syringes) of hypodermic syringes or needles that may be sold.
- It is strongly recommended that the pharmacy stock single unit-of-use syringes.

Adopted: December 6, 2016
Revised: April 6, 2017