

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK COUNTY

BOARD OF REGISTRATION  
IN PHARMACY

In the Matter of  
James Pryles  
PH16751

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)

PHA-2017-0029

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

Final Decision

On October 26, 2017, the Board of Registration in Pharmacy ("Board") issued to James Pryles ("Respondent"), PH16751, an Order to Show Cause why it should not take disciplinary action against his license to practice as a pharmacist. The Order to Show Cause alleged that while working as a pharmacist at Big Y Pharmacy # 3 in Norwell, Massachusetts, Respondent administered a medroxyprogesterone injection to a patient.

On or about December 12, 2018, Respondent and Prosecuting Counsel filed a Sanction Hearing Document containing stipulations of fact and law along with a request for a sanction hearing before the Board. Specifically, in the Sanction Hearing Document, both parties agreed to facts and violations as alleged in the Order to Show Cause. The Board reviewed the Sanction Hearing Document on or about February 1, 2018 and determined the stipulations in the Sanction Hearing Document were sufficient to stand in place of findings from a hearing. The Board voted to adopt the stipulations and to proceed as the parties requested with a Sanction Hearing before the Board. The Sanction Hearing Document and Order to Show Cause are attached hereto and incorporated by reference into the Final Decision.

Prosecuting Counsel and Respondent submitted memoranda relative to the Sanction Hearing on or about March 15, 2018 and April 25, 2018, respectively.

The Board held a Sanction Hearing on May 3, 2018, during which Prosecuting Counsel and Respondent addressed the Board.

During the Hearing, Prosecuting Counsel recommended the Board place Respondent's license on probation.

Respondent's testimony during the hearing may be summarized as follows: Respondent has been a pharmacist for 40 years and has a clean record. At the time of the incident, he was merely trying to help his patient; he did not know it was wrong to administer a medroxyprogesterone injection. Respondent stated that a pharmacist is allowed to administer medications, and that he has administered medications to patients many times. Specifically, Respondent explained that he has administered eye drops and asthma medications to patients. Board members inquired whether Respondent had ruled out pregnancy prior to administration of the medroxyprogesterone; Respondent stated that he felt assured the patient was not pregnant and that she was previously compliant with birth control medication. However, Respondent did not have any lab work to confirm the patient was not pregnant. Respondent also indicated that he has not worked as a pharmacist since this incident.

The Board notes that, with the narrow exception of immunizations, pharmacists are not authorized to administer medications. Administration of medication is simply not within a pharmacist's scope of practice. As such, the Board finds that Respondent violated well known standards of practice by administering medroxyprogesterone to a patient. The Board also considers Respondent's statement that he has administered medications to many patients on other occasions to be an aggravating circumstance that demonstrates a lack of understanding of basic standards of practice in pharmacy.

The Board voted to adopt the within Final Decision at its meeting on June 7, 2018, by the following vote:

In favor:	Philippe Bouvier; Susan Cornacchio; Timothy Fensky; Patrick Gannon; Leah Giambarresi; Michael Godek; Stephanie Hernandez; Carly Jean-Francois; Julie Lanza; Andrew Stein; Kim Tanzer
Opposed:	None
Abstained:	None
Recused:	None
Absent:	Dawn Perry; Ali Raja



## Order

On June 7, 2018, in accordance with the Board's authority and statutory mandate, the Board voted to issue this Final Decision and Order and place Respondent's pharmacist license, PH16751, on **PROBATION** for two years ("Probationary Period"). Further, during the Probationary Period, Respondent: (1) may not supervise or precept pharmacy interns; (2) may not serve as a manager of record; and (3) shall submit documentation demonstrating he read and reviewed 247 CMR 2.00 *et seq*, 105 CMR 700.000, and all policies and procedures posted on the Board's website within 30 days of the Effective Date. The Probationary Period shall run June 21, 2017 through June 21, 2019.<sup>1</sup>

In favor: Philippe Bouvier; Susan Cornacchio; Timothy Fensky; Patrick Gannon; Leah Giambarresi; Michael Godek; Stephanie Hernandez; Carly Jean-Francois; Julie Lanza; Andrew Stein; Kim Tanzer  
Opposed: None  
Abstained: None  
Recused: None  
Absent: Dawn Perry; Ali Raja

## Right to Appeal

Respondent is hereby notified of the right to appeal this Final Decision and Order to the Supreme Judicial Court pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 64 or to a Superior Court with jurisdiction pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 14. Respondent must file his appeal within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Final Decision and Order.

Board of Registration in Pharmacy,

  
David A. Sencabaugh, R.Ph.  
Executive Director

Date Issued: 6-12-2018

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<sup>1</sup> The sanction in this case is consistent with prior Board action related to improper administration of injections. *In the Matter of Simon K. H. Liew*; PHA-2014-0258, the Board imposed two years probation and a prohibition on serving as manager of record and required further education when a pharmacist admitted that he improperly combined different immunizations in a single syringe and administered same to patients.

Notified:

VIA FIRST CLASS & CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7017 0530 0000 0551 5481,  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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