

657—36.6(147,155A,272C) Grounds for discipline. The board may impose any of the disciplinary sanctions set forth in rule 657—36.7(147,155A,272C) when the board determines that the licensee has committed any of the following acts or omissions:

36.6(1) Fraud in procuring a license. Fraud in procuring a license includes but is not limited to an intentional perversion of the truth in making application for a license to practice pharmacy, to operate a pharmacy doing business in this state, or to operate as a wholesale drug distributor doing business in this state, or in making application for a registration to practice as a pharmacist-intern, a pharmacy technician, or a pharmacy support person. Fraud in procuring a license includes false representations of a material fact, whether by word or conduct, by false or misleading allegations, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed when making application, or attempting to file or filing with the board any false or forged diploma, certificate, affidavit, identification, or qualification in making application for a license or registration in this state.

36.6(2) Professional incompetency. Professional incompetency includes but is not limited to:

a. A substantial lack of knowledge or ability to discharge professional obligations within the scope of the pharmacist's practice.

b. A substantial deviation by a pharmacist from the standards of learning or skill ordinarily possessed and applied by other pharmacists in the state of Iowa acting in the same or similar circumstances.

c. A failure by a pharmacist to exercise in a substantial respect that degree of care which is ordinarily exercised by the average pharmacist in the state of Iowa acting under the same or similar circumstances.

d. A willful or repeated departure from, or the failure to conform to, the minimal standard or acceptable and prevailing practice of pharmacy in the state of Iowa.

36.6(3) Knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of pharmacy or engaging in unethical conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public. Proof of actual injury need not be established.

36.6(4) Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs. Habitual intoxication or addiction to the use of drugs includes, but is not limited to:

a. The inability of a licensee to practice with reasonable skill and safety by reason of the excessive use of alcohol on a continuing basis.

b. The excessive use of drugs which may impair a licensee's ability to practice with reasonable skill or safety.

36.6(5) Being convicted of an offense that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the profession. A conviction includes a guilty plea, including Alford and nolo contendere pleas, or a finding or verdict of guilt, even if the adjudication of guilt is deferred, withheld or not entered. A copy of the guilty plea or order of conviction constitutes conclusive evidence of conviction. An offense directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the profession if the actions taken in furtherance of the offense are actions customarily performed within the scope of practice of the profession or the circumstances under which the offense was committed are circumstances customary to the profession.

36.6(6) Fraud in representations as to skill or ability. Fraud in representations as to skill or ability includes, but is not limited to, a pharmacist having made deceptive or untrue representations as to competency to perform professional services which the pharmacist is not qualified to perform by virtue of training or experience.

36.6(7) Use of untrue or improbable statements in advertisements.

36.6(8) Distribution of drugs for other than lawful purposes. The distribution of drugs for other than lawful purposes includes, but is not limited to, the disposition of drugs in violation of Iowa Code chapters 124, 126, and 155A.

36.6(9) Willful or repeated violations of the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 147 or 272C. Willful or repeated violations of these Acts include, but are not limited to, a licensee's intentionally or repeatedly violating a lawful rule or regulation promulgated by the board of pharmacy or the Iowa department of public health, violating a lawful order of the board in a disciplinary hearing, or violating the provisions of title IV (public health) of the Iowa Code.

36.6(10) Violating a statute or law of this state, another state, or the United States, without regard to its designation as either a felony or misdemeanor, which statute or law relates to the practice of pharmacy or the distribution of controlled substances, prescription drugs, or nonprescription drugs.

36.6(11) Failure to notify the board within 30 days after a final decision entered by the licensing authority of another state, territory, or country which decision resulted in a license revocation, suspension, or other disciplinary sanction.

36.6(12) Knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising another person to unlawfully practice pharmacy or to unlawfully perform the functions of a pharmacist-intern, a pharmacy technician, or a pharmacy support person.

36.6(13) Inability of a licensee to practice with reasonable skill and safety by reason of mental or physical impairment or chemical abuse.

36.6(14) Being adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction. Such adjudication shall automatically suspend a license for the duration of the license or registration unless the board otherwise orders.

36.6(15) Submission of a false report of continuing education, submission of a false certification of completion of continuing education, or failure to submit biennial reports of continuing education as directed by the board.

36.6(16) Failure to notify the board within 30 days after occurrence of any judgment or settlement of a malpractice court claim or action.

36.6(17) Failure to file reports concerning acts or omissions committed by another licensee.

36.6(18) Willful or repeated malpractice.

36.6(19) Willful or gross negligence.

36.6(20) Obtaining any fee by fraud or misrepresentation.

36.6(21) Violating any of the grounds for revocation or suspension of a license or registration listed in Iowa Code section 147.55, Iowa Code chapter 155A, or any of the rules of the board.

36.6(22) Practicing pharmacy without an active and current Iowa pharmacist license, operating a pharmacy without a current pharmacy license, operating a prescription drug wholesale facility without a current wholesale drug license, operating an outsourcing facility without a current outsourcing facility license, practicing as a pharmacist-intern without a current pharmacist-intern registration, assisting a pharmacist with technical functions associated with the practice of pharmacy without a current pharmacy technician registration except as provided in the introductory paragraph of rule 657—3.3(155A), or assisting a pharmacist with nontechnical functions associated with the practice of pharmacy without a current pharmacy support person registration.

36.6(23) Attempting to circumvent the patient counseling requirements or discouraging patients from receiving patient counseling concerning their prescription drug orders.

36.6(24) Noncompliance with a child support order or with a written agreement for payment of child support as evidenced by a certificate of noncompliance issued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 252J.

36.6(25) Engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert a board investigation.

36.6(26) Employing or continuing to employ as a practicing pharmacist any person whose Iowa pharmacist license is not current and active, employing or continuing to employ a person to assist a pharmacist with technical functions associated with the practice of pharmacy who is not currently registered as a pharmacy technician except as provided in the introductory paragraph of rule 657—3.3(155A), or employing or continuing to employ a person to assist a pharmacist with nontechnical functions associated with the practice of pharmacy who is not currently registered as a pharmacy support person.

36.6(27) Retaliating against a pharmacist, pharmacist-intern, pharmacy technician, or pharmacy support person for making allegations of illegal or unethical activities, making required reports to the board, or cooperating with a board investigation or survey.

36.6(28) Failing to create and maintain complete and accurate records as required by state or federal law or regulation or rule of the board.

36.6(29) Violating the pharmacy or drug laws or rules of another state while under the jurisdiction of that state.

36.6(30) Having a license revoked or suspended or having other disciplinary action taken by a licensing authority of this state or of another state, territory, or country for conduct substantially equivalent to any of the grounds for disciplinary action in Iowa. A copy of the record from the licensing authority taking the disciplinary action shall be conclusive evidence of the action.

36.6(31) Failure to comply with mandatory child or dependent adult abuse reporter training requirements.

36.6(32) Failure to timely provide to the board or a representative of the board prescription fill data or other required pharmacy or controlled substances records.

36.6(33) Nonpayment of a state debt as evidenced by a certificate of noncompliance issued pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 272D.

36.6(34) Failure to notify the board of a criminal conviction relating to the practice of pharmacy or to the distribution of drugs within 30 days of the action, regardless of the jurisdiction where it occurred.

36.6(35) Obtaining, possessing, or attempting to obtain or possess prescription drugs without lawful authority.

36.6(36) Diverting prescription drugs from a pharmacy for personal use or for distribution.

36.6(37) Practicing pharmacy, or assisting in the practice of pharmacy, while under the influence of alcohol or illicit substances.

36.6(38) Practicing pharmacy, or assisting in the practice of pharmacy, while under the influence of prescription drugs or substances for which the licensee does not have a lawful prescription or while impaired by the use of legitimately prescribed pharmacological agents, drugs, or substances.

36.6(39) Forging or altering a prescription.

36.6(40) Practicing outside the scope of the profession.

36.6(41) Dispensing, or contributing to the dispensing of, an incorrect prescription, which includes, but is not limited to, the incorrect drug, the incorrect strength, the incorrect patient or prescriber, or the incorrect or incomplete directions.

36.6(42) Failing to comply with a confidential order for evaluation.

36.6(43) Failing to comply with the terms of an initial agreement or contract with the Iowa monitoring program for pharmacy professionals committee.

[ARC 3344C, IAB 9/27/17, effective 11/1/17; ARC 4581C, IAB 7/31/19, effective 9/4/19; ARC 5750C, IAB 7/14/21, effective 8/18/21]