

ISDH Long Term Care
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Indiana State Health Commissioner

INDIANAPOLIS (March 3, 2010) - Governor Mitch Daniels announced he has appointed Dr. Gregory N. Larkin, a former Greencastle family physician who went on to a distinguished 22-year career at Eli Lilly and Company, as the state's new health commissioner.

He will replace Dr. Judy Monroe, who is leaving her position March 8 to become deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and director of the CDC's newly formed Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support.

The governor has asked Dr. Larkin to continue the state's progress in immunizing children, reporting and reducing medical errors, and changing the health culture of Indiana. Dr. Larkin has served as the chief medical officer for the Indiana Health Information Exchange, which promotes health information technology for the advancement of quality patient and community care, since retiring from Lilly in 2007. He is a recognized expert on health information and technology and will extend Indiana's recognized leadership in that area.

In the past five years, Indiana has improved its childhood immunization ranking, moving from 41st to 15th in the country for children with full immunizations. The Department of Health also implemented the governor's executive order to create the state's first medical errors reporting system and advocated the governor's INShape Indiana program which is aimed at improving Hoosiers' health.

During his tenure at Eli Lilly, Dr. Larkin was the company's global medical director managing five domestic health care clinics, the domestic employee and retiree health plan and was the global liaison for the company's world affiliates for occupational and corporate health care.

He has been a member of the Healthy Indiana Plan task force, served as chairman of the board of the Indianapolis Medical Society and the Indiana Blood Center, and volunteered with many other medical and community organizations. Dr. Larkin had a family practice in Greencastle from 1975 to 1986.

Dr. Larkin earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from Indiana University. He will join the health department on April 1.

Best Wishes

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) would like to thank Ellen Grief, RN, MPH, for her many contributions to Indiana's healthcare quality. Ellen currently serves as the Manager of the Long Term

Care Certification and Enforcement Branch for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Midwest Consortium in Chicago. Ellen is retiring at the end of this month.

Ellen has worked closely with Indiana for many years. Prior to her current Manager position, she at one time served as the CMS Program Representative for the Indiana long term care survey and certification program. Ellen has been a strong advocate for long term care. Her guidance and expertise has been valued and contributed to improvements in Indiana's long term care program. We appreciate her 21 years of government service and wish her well.

Qualified Medication Aide Renewals

All qualified medication aide (QMA) certifications will be expiring on March 31, 2010. The QMA certification renewal process requires two steps:

- 1) Payment of \$10.00 renewal fee AND
- 2) Submission of the QMA Record of Annual Inservice Training form

All QMAs should receive a renewal notice. This notice has instructions for both online and mail renewal. QMA's are reminded that if they renew online they must mail the QMA Record of Annual Inservice Training to the ISDH at:

Indiana State Department of Health
Training Department – 4B
2 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The QMA certification will not be renewed until the fee is paid and the QMA Record of Annual Inservice Training form has been submitted and approved by the ISDH Long Term Care staff.

Renewal Tips:

- CNA certification must be current
- Inservice dates must be between 03/1/2009 and 02/28/2010
- Inservice topic must be specific to medications or medication administration (i.e. specific medications, any procedure within the QMAs scope of practice, specific conditions and medications that relate, actual medication administration time not to exceed 1 hour)
- Topics such as, charting, documentation, vital signs will not be counted toward the 6 hours for QMA.
- QMA rules can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T04120/A00020.PDF>.
- QMA Record of Annual Inservice Training form can be found at: http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/QMA_Record_Annual_Inservice_Training.pdf.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Gilbert (ngilbert@isdh.in.gov) 317-233-7616 or Gina Berkshire (gberkshire@isdh.in.gov) at 317-233-7497.

Recalls

Zocor (simvastatin): increased risk of muscle injury with high doses

Simvastatin is sold as a single-ingredient generic medication and as the brand-name, Zocor. It is also sold in combination with ezetimibe as Vytorin; and niacin as Simcor.

[Posted 03/19/2010] FDA notified healthcare professionals and patients that, based on review of data from a large clinical trial and other sources, there is an increased risk of muscle injury in patients taking the highest approved dose of the cholesterol-lowering medication, Zocor (simvastatin) 80 mg, compared to patients taking lower doses of simvastatin and possibly other drugs in the "statin" class. FDA is also reviewing data from other clinical trials, observational studies, adverse event reports, and data on prescription use of simvastatin to better understand the relationship between high-dose simvastatin use and muscle injury.

Recommendations for healthcare professionals, recommendations for patients and a data summary of information used in this ongoing review are provided in the Drug Safety Communication.

[03/19/2010 - [Drug Safety Communication](#) - FDA]

[03/2010 - [Prescribing Information: Zocor](#) - Merck]



Best wishes.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health



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Visit the ISDH Division of Long Term Care home page at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/23260.htm> for information on long term care.