

## Programs to Promote **SAFE PHARMACY PRACTICES**

### ABOUT NABP AND BOARDS OF PHARMACY

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) is a nonprofit association that protects the public health by assisting member boards of pharmacy and offering programs to promote safe pharmacy practices for the benefit of patients. Boards of pharmacy regulate the practice of pharmacy, and NABP is proud to support the boards in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, and all ten Canadian provinces. As an association, we provide a wide variety of programs and services all underscored by our vision statement—innovating and collaborating today for a safer public health tomorrow.

Regulating pharmacy, pharmacist, technician, and supply chain safety and compliance is the only way to ensure that patients can trust the drugs they receive at the pharmacy counter. In order to achieve this, state boards oversee pharmacy practice and pharmacy professional licensure, and ensure compliance with pharmacy law and rules. NABP supports the boards in these efforts by offering services to inform board functions and streamline them across state lines.



### NABP ASSISTS BOARDS IN PROTECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH

- 1 PATIENTS:** NABP helps ensure safety of the supply chain from the moment a medication leaves its manufacturer until it is in the patient's hand or medicine cabinet.



#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS**

NABP manages a number of public health initiatives and direct-to-consumer public education campaigns focused on keeping patients safe – both online and off.

The website "[safe.pharmacy](#)" and the AWARxE public education campaign help patients:

- Navigate how to purchase medication from legitimate websites online
- Know how to safely dispose of drugs to prevent misuse and abuse
- Prevent prescription drug abuse, including abuse of opioids and stimulants



#### **BEST PRACTICES AND RESOURCES FOR THE BOARDS**

NABP maintains a [comprehensive database of state pharmacy laws](#) and provides [model state pharmacy act and model rules](#) language which is updated annually and includes expert legal commentary. NABP provides other resources to assist the boards of pharmacy, including operational resources, orientation and training, guidance, updates from the federal government, and best practices from other jurisdictions. Through these efforts, NABP assists in the successful transition of new executive directors and board members to a purely public health protection role.



#### **PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING**

Each state and territory runs its own Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) to prevent the misuse and diversion of controlled substances, including opioids. [NABP PMP InterConnect®](#) facilitates the sharing of prescription monitoring program (PMP) data from pharmacies and other healthcare providers across state lines.

- 2 PHARMACISTS:** States are responsible for licensing pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to practice. NABP assists boards by developing and overseeing the examinations they use to assess pharmacists' competency for the purpose of licensure and by making it easier for licenses to transfer across state lines. This alleviates the administrative burden on boards and provides uniform information for decision-making.



### EXAMINATIONS

One component of obtaining a license to practice pharmacy is passing examinations demonstrating knowledge of the practice of pharmacy. NABP offers the [North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® \(NAPLEX®\)](#), examinations testing knowledge of state pharmacy practice laws and rules, exams for foreign pharmacy school graduates, and corresponding pre-tests.



### LICENSING

NABP's [Electronic Licensure Transfer Program® \(e-LTP™\)](#) enables licensed pharmacists to easily transfer their existing license to one or more states or jurisdictions. Pharmacists create an NABP e-Profile, from which they can access all of their license and examination information. NABP facilitates the licensure transfer process on behalf of its member boards of pharmacy, who ultimately make the licensure decision. To facilitate this process and serve boards and pharmacists, NABP maintains a [Clearinghouse database](#) of licensure and disciplinary information on pharmacists practicing in NABP's member states and jurisdictions.

As with other professions, pharmacists are required to participate in Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) to maintain their license to practice. NABP provides the [CPE Monitor](#) program to help pharmacists easily track, store, and monitor their CPE activity.

- 3 PHARMACIES:** NABP provides resources to improve state inspection and licensure of pharmacies and runs pharmacy accreditation programs that create uniform standards.



### INSPECTION AND LICENSURE

NABP's [Verified Pharmacy Program® \(VPP®\)](#) helps streamline the interstate licensure and inspection process for pharmacies, reducing costs related to multiple inspections. NABP's [Multistate Pharmacy Inspection Blueprint Program](#) provides boards of pharmacy with tools to inspect sterile compounding pharmacies that ship across state lines. NABP also provides training to boards on improving inspection processes and can perform inspections to supplement board staff and alleviate financial burden.



### ACCREDITATION

For pharmacies providing specialized services, NABP provides accreditation programs for [community pharmacies](#), [compounding pharmacies](#), [home infusion therapy pharmacies](#), and [specialty pharmacies](#). NABP also provides accreditation for pharmacies to meet Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirements to distribute Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies ([DMEPOS](#)).

For pharmacies providing services online, NABP runs the [Pharmacy Verified Websites Program](#) and offers [Digital Pharmacy Accreditation](#) so consumers can identify which pharmacy websites are licensed and safe. Digital Pharmacy Accreditation has been accrediting websites offering pharmacy services since 1999. For decades, NABP has recognized the need to help safe and legitimate pharmacies with an internet presence stand out against the ever-growing list of rogue websites which offer medicines without requiring a valid prescription, operate out of compliance with pharmacy laws and practice standards, and/or sell controlled substances, misbranded, or counterfeit prescription drugs.

- 4 DISTRIBUTORS AND WHOLESALERS:** NABP also contributes to upstream supply chain safety.



### INSPECTION

NABP offers the [supply chain facility inspection service](#), which is a regulatory inspection for facilities engaged in prescription drug and prescription medical device distribution, that may satisfy an inspection requirement from an entity or agency, but is not an accreditation.



### ACCREDITATION

NABP offers [Drug Distributor Accreditation](#). To become accredited, facilities must undergo a rigorous review of their operating policies and procedures; licensure verification; a survey of a facility's operations; and screening through the NABP Clearinghouse. The Drug Distributor Accreditation plays a pivotal role in preventing counterfeit drugs from entering the U.S. drug supply by helping protect the public from drugs that have been contaminated, diverted, or counterfeited. NABP also runs the [OTC Medical Device Distributor Accreditation](#) for business entities that distribute diagnostic over-the-counter (OTC) medical devices that may be dispensed pursuant to a prescription.