



NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF PHARMACY

newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance

Board of Pharmacy Office Relocation

The North Dakota Board of Pharmacy is moving from its current location to a new office location in Bismarck by December 21. The new location will be at 1838 E Interstate Ave, Suite D, Bismarck, ND 58503. The new phone number for the Board is 701/877-2404, the fax number is 701/877-2405, and the prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) line is 701/877-2410. All changes will be communicated to pharmacies in the state, and information will be updated on the Board's website upon the changes occurring.

2023 Legislative Session

The 2023 legislative session is right around the corner. It appears this will again be a busy session with many important topics that will be debated and acted upon. As always, there will most likely be multiple items brought before the legislature that will involve pharmacy, either directly or indirectly.

In the lead-up to the legislative session, the Board encourages you to contact your legislators about issues and/or concerns that you may have in your practice. The legislative body may not be able to address each issue that pharmacists are dealing with; however, it is important that they are aware of not only the challenges that pharmacy is facing, but also the successes that the profession has had. The practice of pharmacy continues to be looked to for solutions to issues in health care delivery across the state. It is important that you, their constituents, educate legislators on your professional perspective of the issues and your experiences.

National Pharmacy Compliance News

A Service of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation (NABPF)

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Drug Disposal Program

The Board operates a drug disposal program, which allows pharmacies to offer patients and citizens a safe location to dispose of unused controlled substance (CS) medication. Thanks to the outstanding participation by over 150 pharmacies in the state, over 21 tons of medications from patients have been safely destroyed. This continues to have a huge impact on reducing the medications that patients may have in their homes, which could otherwise end up being diverted or misused. Thank you for all your efforts in offering this service and educating patients about it!

This program, offered through the Sharps Compliance MedSafe system, continues to be provided by the Board and is free of charge to eligible participating pharmacies committed to providing this service to their patients. The Board is committed to funding a disposal program long term to ensure the maximum opportunity for patients to properly destroy CS, preventing diversion and abuse. With the escalation in opioid overdoses, it is important that the profession is committed to providing an avenue for the public to safely dispose of their unused medications.

If any pharmacy desires to begin offering this service to the public, the Board welcomes its participation. Please reach out to the Board office at any time for further information or to be connected with a representative from Sharps Compliance to address any questions or concerns.

Updates to the North Dakota Legend Drug Donation and Repository Program

*By Emily Lothspeich, PharmD, RPh, and Tess Prochazka, PharmD, RPh
(previously published in June 2022)*

The North Dakota Legend Drug Donation and Repository Program has been in effect since July 1, 2007, when House Bill 1256 was signed by Governor John Hoeven. As of fall 2021, that makes North Dakota one of 40 states with legislation on donation programs and one of 27 states with an operational program. North Dakota currently has 105 pharmacies with a registered account for the program, but only 48 have active inventory. Your pharmacy should have received a letter outlining some of the following information, but the Board requests your participation in the program.

The Donation Program has most commonly been referred to as the “Drug Repository Program,” but in hopes to increase public understanding of the program, the Board is making a gentle transition to use “Drug Donation Program.” Any unopened medications, devices, and medical supplies qualify for enrollment into the program upon pharmacist assessment of eligibility. This is especially helpful for high-cost medications, such as insulin and diabetic testing supplies, or specialty medications, such as treatments for cancer, HIV, and rheumatoid arthritis. Medications that do not qualify include CS, Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy program drugs, expired medications, and multidose drug packages (eg, Diabetes Health Pack, Dispill, PASS Pack).

Drug donations have the twofold benefit of removing unused medications from patient homes and aiding other patients with financial and health needs. Donation programs provide other benefits, including increased medication accessibility for patients of low socioeconomic status,

decreased cost for patients and the health care system, and reduced environmental impact. Even if the medication is not eligible for the program, it gives pharmacy staff the opportunity to discuss other options for safe disposal, such as medication take-back programs.

For the Drug Donation Program to succeed, it is vital to have pharmacy and patient involvement. We created a poster outlining details of the program along with a patient brochure to display in your pharmacy. The Board asks participating pharmacies to utilize these resources to increase advertising of the program and patient knowledge regarding its benefits.

The Board is making some formatting changes to the program's section of the website, which can be found at www.nodakpharmacy.com. These updates include access to new resources, including a how-to guide explaining how to register for an account, search for active inventory, and update your pharmacy's inventory. Duplicate pharmacy accounts have been removed, and pharmacy license formats have been changed to "Phar###," which will be used for all new registrants.

To further expand patient-focused initiatives, it is helpful to see previous impact. Therefore, the Board asks that when adding medications to their inventory, pharmacies include the total estimated cost, as this can be used to determine overall health care savings. Secondly, when removing items from their inventory, pharmacies are asked to select "expiring," "dispensing," or "other" to determine how many patients were impacted.

If you have a patient in another part of the state requesting medication from your stock, medications donated through this program are eligible for mailing. It is important for the Drug Donation Program to support patients in all areas of North Dakota. As health care professionals and advocates for patient health, your participation in the Drug Donation Program is encouraged.

New Publication of Laws, Rules, and Regulations

The Board has made available a new publication of the law book, which includes the law and rule changes during the past two years. The law book can be found on the Board's website at <https://www.nodakpharmacy.com/laws-rules.asp>. The document is in a pdf and can be viewed, printed, or downloaded when desired. The Board will no longer be printing and mailing hard copies to pharmacies in the state.

The North Dakota Board of Pharmacy News is published by the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation® (NABPF®) to promote compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of NABPF or the Board unless expressly so stated.

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