

MINNESOTA BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

Disciplinary Actions

The Minnesota Board of Pharmacy posts public orders of disciplinary actions via its [online license/registration verification service](#).

When viewing a licensee or registrant, Board orders will be listed when public actions are present. When Board orders are made public, a file and date are

included, and a link to download public documents is available. Discipline is summarized on the [Board's website](#) under the "Resources/FAQs" menu item, while the orders are publicly available via the [online license/registration verification service](#).

Public Safety Findings and Trends

The convenience and competitive pricing of online shopping can be tempting, but when it comes to medication, caution is critical.

While many legitimate online pharmacies exist, the internet is also home to thousands of rogue websites selling unapproved, counterfeit, or substandard drugs. Consumers must be vigilant to protect their health and personal information.

Purchasing medication from an unverified online source can pose serious health hazards:

- **Counterfeit or Substandard Drugs:** The pills you receive may look identical to the real thing, but they could contain no active ingredient, too much or too little of the necessary medicine, or wrong/toxic ingredients. This means your

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Public Safety Findings and Trends

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condition may go untreated, or you risk overdose, dangerous side effects, and allergic reactions.

- **Contamination and Improper Storage:** Illegally produced medications are often made in unsanitary conditions. Even legitimate-looking drugs may have been stored improperly (eg, without necessary temperature controls), making them ineffective or harmful.

Before you click “Buy,” verify that the online pharmacy is legitimate and licensed. One tool that can help you in this effort is the [National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® Safe Site Search Tool](#).

A safe, verified online pharmacy must meet the following requirements:

- **Licensure:** Be appropriately licensed by regulators in the jurisdiction where the site is located, as well as by regulators in the ship-to jurisdiction.

- **Prescriptions:** Accept only valid prescriptions.
- **Standards:** Comply with applicable drug and professional practice laws.
- **Confidentiality:** Comply with privacy law patient confidentiality standards.
- **Availability:** Provide readily accessible contact information for patient care questions and support.

If a deal seems too good to be true, it almost certainly is. Protect yourself by only using online pharmacies that meet these criteria or by purchasing directly from your regular, trusted pharmacy.



GLP-1 Safety Concerns

The Board is aware of multiple reports regarding the potentially inappropriate use or distribution of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) injectables (semaglutide and tirzepatide). One preventable adverse event happens when providers send multiple prescriptions with different doses and concentrations to fulfill the titration schedule. This has led to dispensing errors and patient harm when the prescriptions are

filled out of order and the patient initiates therapy with a higher than intended dose. Increased scrutiny during the drug utilization review or profile review may prevent such errors. Counseling patients and understanding where they are in their titration schedule can also prevent such errors.

Compounded GLP-1s and unapproved compounded combinations continue to be

provided despite Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance on the matter. Actively ask your patients about their use of medications obtained through nontraditional sources or telemedicine because these can be overlooked. The Board continues to be made aware of unlicensed pharmacies providing medications to such clinics, and unlicensed providers or licensed health care

GLP-1 Safety Concerns

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professionals prescribing outside their scope of practice.

Encourage patients to utilize resources such as the [FDA BeSafeRx website](#) or the Board's licensure portal to ensure that

pharmacies are properly licensed with the Board. Prior to accepting medication dispensed from a med spa or lifestyle clinic, encourage your patients to inquire about the source for medications

with the clinic. Any medication received through a med spa or lifestyle clinic is required to have a patient-specific label with all the same information expected in a pharmacy label.

Technician Training

Within one year of obtaining a registration, pharmacy technicians must complete and submit proof of training to the Board to renew their registration during the next renewal period. Training must be completed within 12 months from the date they receive a technician registration number, not from the date they became employed. Prior work experience as a pharmacy technician does not waive this

requirement. If an individual was a technician in a different state or is reinstating a registration and did not complete a Minnesota Board-approved training program, training will also need to be completed within 12 months and submitted to the Board. The Board will accept certification from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or the National Healthcareer Association's ExCPT certification

as a Board-approved pharmacy technician training program. A technician's training status can be found using the [online license verification service](#) or by logging in to their online account. Additional information about technician training can be found on the Board's [Technician Training Requirements page](#).

Board Member and Staff Updates

Public Board Member #1:

Jana Rasmussen obtained her bachelor's degree in business administration from Metropolitan State University. Her work experience spans various roles, including leading development and implementation of operations at her current employer and starting her own business. In her free time, she enjoys the Minnesota outdoors and was also recently appointed to serve on her local parks, recreation, and forestry commission.

Executive Director:

Aaron Patterson, PharmD, RPh, has been appointed as the executive director of the Board, succeeding the retiring director, Jill Phillips, MPH, RPh. Patterson is an experienced member of the Board's staff, having most recently served as the interim director since February 2025. Prior to that, he was a pharmacy surveyor for the Board, a position he held since 2017. Before his tenure, Dr Patterson practiced pharmacy and held licenses in multiple midwestern states, where he was engaged in sterile and nonsterile compounding,

home care, and community pharmacy activities. He earned his doctor of pharmacy degree from Drake University in Des Moines, IA.

Pharmacy Surveyor:

Robert Johnson, PharmD, RPh, has joined the Board staff as a pharmacy surveyor. Johnson brings extensive experience across multiple practice settings, including retail and long-term care pharmacy management. For the past eight years, he has served as a hospital and infusion pharmacy manager at Essentia Health-Moose Lake. He earned his doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Pharmacist Renewal and CE Attestation

In accordance with Minnesota Rule 6800.1150, pharmacist licenses expire on March 1, 2026. Online renewals for pharmacists opened on the Board's [Online Services site](#) on December 1 and are due on or before February 1, 2026. **Renewals submitted after March 1 will incur a late fee (50% of the renewal fee in**

addition to the renewal fee). The pharmacist renewal fee listed in Minnesota Statutes 151.065 is \$225.

Minnesota Rule 6800.1500 requires pharmacists to maintain a complete record of continuing education (CE) participation during each CE reporting cycle. Pharmacists will be able to attest

to completion of CE within the Online Services site once they have completed their renewal. Failure to attest by September 30, 2026, will result in an automatic Late CE Audit; pharmacists who attest prior to that date may also be selected for random audit.



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