

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

Item 2529 – Southeastern District Board Seat Election Results

The North Carolina Board of Pharmacy members and staff congratulate William Wesley “Wes” Hickman of Leland, NC, on his election to a five-year term from the Southeastern District. The Board certified the election results on March 2, 2026. A total of 1,333 votes were cast between November 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026. Dr Hickman will begin his term on May 1, 2026, after being commissioned by Governor Josh Stein.

Board members and staff send their deepest appreciation to Robert J. “Joey” McLaughlin, Jr, who will complete a term of superlative service to the Board and the people of North Carolina, and who previously served two five-year terms on the Board.

The next Board elections will begin in November 2026 for the Northern and Western District

seats held by Keith Vance and Chris Sain, respectively. Dr Vance will complete two consecutive five-year terms on April 30, 2027, and may not run for a third consecutive term. Dr Sain will complete his first five-year term on April 30, 2027, and is eligible to run for a second term. Successful candidates will serve a five-year term from May 1, 2027, through April 30, 2032.

In the coming months, Board staff will provide more information about the upcoming election process, including candidate interest forums in the Northern and Western Districts. The Northern District is composed of the Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Orange, Person, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin Counties. The Western District is composed of the Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell,

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Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey Counties.

Candidates for these positions must be North Carolina-licensed pharmacists who reside in one of the districts' counties.

Item 2530 – Board Associate Executive Director Ellen Vick to Receive NABP's John F. Atkinson Service Award

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) has chosen Ellen Vick, the Board's associate executive director, to receive the John F. Atkinson Service Award.

The Atkinson Service Award recognizes extraordinary service in protecting public health, particularly through work in pharmacy law, inspections, and compliance. Its winners have provided NABP with exemplary

service in protecting public health and have made exceptional contributions related to pharmacy law and compliance. This award was named in honor of the late John F. Atkinson, former NABP general counsel, who served the Association for more than 40 years.

Ellen was chosen after nominations from her peers around the country and a vote by

the NABP Executive Committee. Ellen joins Krystal Stefanyk, the Board's director of inspections, as an Atkinson Service Award winner (in 2019).

This is a singular and well-deserved award for Ellen. Board members and staff extend to Ellen their congratulations and deepest appreciation.

Item 2531 – Board Hosts Third Annual Pharmacy Compounding Summit

The Board of Pharmacy's Third Annual Compounding Summit took place from February 24-26, 2026, in Chapel Hill, NC. Attendance continues to grow, having drawn over 290 attendees this year from all walks of the compounding world.

The summit once again brought together national experts in compounding practice and regulation. If you were unable to

attend, information about the topics and speakers is located [here](#). Planning is underway for the Fourth Annual Compounding Summit in 2027. Watch the Board website for details and registration information.

The summit continues to be spearheaded by the Board's director of inspections, Krystal Stefanyk, who is among the country's foremost experts in

compounding regulation and practice. Leslie Wilson once again led the logistics efforts. And the Board's IT administrator, Antoine Pryor, again provided invaluable technical and logistical planning and support. The Board continues to thank NABP for advertising the summit to other boards of pharmacy and for serving as the continuing education accreditor.

Item 2532 – *REMINDER* Transition to the Uniform MPJE

Effective April 1, 2026, the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy will require passage of the uniform version of the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination® (MPJE®) as a condition for pharmacist licensure and will no longer offer or require the North Carolina MPJE for all licensure applicants. For additional information regarding the new Uniform MPJE™ (UMPJE™), visit the [Examinations section](#) of the NABP website.

New Graduates – As of April 1, 2026, graduates of Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education-accredited programs and Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee™-certified pharmacists pursuing licensure in the jurisdiction of North Carolina will be required to pass both the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® and the UMPJE.

New graduates will also be provided with an on-demand educational module on North Carolina-specific pharmacy regulation as part of the UMPJE process.

License Transfer – As of April 1, 2026, licensed pharmacists seeking licensure in North Carolina will be required to pass the UMPJE and submit an [Electronic Licensure Transfer Program® application](#). Applicants for licensure transfer will also be provided with an on-demand educational module on North Carolina-specific pharmacy regulation as part of the UMPJE process.

Additional information about the transition is available [here](#).

Item 2533 – DEA Extends COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for CS Prescriptions Through December 31, 2026

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services have jointly issued a Fourth Temporary Rule extending the current telemedicine flexibilities, which allow the prescribing of controlled

substances (CS) without a prior in-person evaluation through December 31, 2026. The primary goal of this extension is to prevent a “telemedicine cliff” regarding patient access to care. This extension provides the agencies with additional time

to finalize permanent regulations regarding a “Special Registration” for telemedicine practice and the prescribing of CS. More information is contained in [DEA’s Federal Register notification](#).

Item 2534 – Rulemaking Underway to Permanently Implement Pharmacists’ Authority to Test for and Treat Influenza

Session Law 2025-37 authorized pharmacists to test and treat patients for influenza. That authority was first implemented

by two standing orders issued by the state health director on September 30, 2025, after input from stakeholders. Pharmacists

have implemented the standing orders since then, with no reported incidents.

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Following issuance of the standing orders, the Session Law directed the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy and the North Carolina Medical Board to adopt rules and protocols. Each Board has

proposed adopting protocols that are substantively identical to the standing orders and has proposed rules that incorporate the protocols by reference. The proposed rule language can be found at this [link](#).

All statewide protocols and standing orders for pharmacists are available [here](#). And any active Board rulemaking is [here](#).

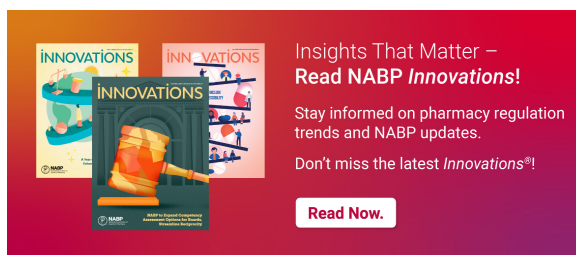
Item 2535 – Board Completes Rulemaking to Amend Health Care Facility Validating Technician Qualifications and Authority

In fall 2025, the Board began a rulemaking to provide additional qualification pathways and authorities for validating technicians in health care facilities. Details about the amendments can be found [here](#).

The Board held a public hearing on the proposed amendments in December and received several

constructive written comments on the rule. At the conclusion of the comment period, the Board adopted the amendments as published at its January 2026 meeting. The North Carolina Rules Review Commission approved the amendments on February 26, 2026, and they will go into effect on May 1, 2026.

Board staff will provide a guidance document detailing the rule changes for health care facility pharmacists and pharmacies. Keep an eye on the Board’s website – www.ncbop.org – for that guidance.



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