



*Report of the Steering Committee for the*

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# NABP RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INSTITUTE

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## Report of the Steering Committee for the NABP Research and Innovation Institute

### Members Present

Kimberly Grinston (MO), *chair*; Ronda Chakolis-Hassan (MN); Cecil Cordle (GA); Reggie Dilliard (TN); Allison Hill (DC); Ricky Indovina (LA); Jennifer Keonavong (AZ); Priyal Patel (OR); Denise Scarpelli (IL); and Bev Zwicker (NS).

### Others Present

Jeffrey J. Mesaros, *Executive Committee liaison*, Bradley S. “Brad” Hamilton (NABP President), Melissa Becker, Jim DeVita, Eileen Lewalski, Gertrude “Gg” Levine, and Maureen Schanck, *NABP staff*.

### Introduction

The steering committee met virtually on October 14, 2025. Established in 2024 to inaugurate the presidential initiative of then NABP President Jeffrey J. Mesaros, the steering committee continues to operate under the presidential initiative of the current NABP President Bradley S. “Brad” Hamilton. The meeting focused on progress made to date and next steps to advance the NABP Research and Innovation Institute.

### Background and Discussion

The discussion began with an overview of the progress made to date, the primary focus of which has been on promoting the Institute’s purpose and value proposition. Staff reviewed the activities undertaken in recent months to promote the Institute, including a continuing pharmacy education session at the 121<sup>st</sup> NABP Annual Meeting in May 2025, an “Insight Session” panel at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores’ Total Store Expo for pharmacy and technology stakeholders in August 2025, the President’s Address at NABP district meetings, and attendance at the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP) conference and the Coalition for Health AI, Inc, symposium in September 2025.

Staff relayed that NABP surveyed the boards of pharmacy in August 2025 and determined that they have a strong interest in the Institute’s objectives. Specifically, 100% (30/30) of the respondents agreed that their boards would benefit from objective research, information, evidence, or data to support making regulatory decisions on proposed technology or nontraditional practice models. Seventy percent (21/30) of respondents reported that regulated entities or stakeholders have approached their boards regarding novel practice models or the integration of innovative technology that may not be addressed by current regulation.

Based on the percentage of respondents, the boards’ most common concern is remote product verification/virtual visual verification (60%), followed by central fill/central services (53%). Half of the respondents also named remote practice from home (50%) and kiosks/secure lockers (50%) as key concerns. Other priorities include telepharmacy (40%), technician product verification (40%),



telehealth (33%), and drone delivery (30%). Only 20% of respondents named artificial intelligence (AI) as a key concern.

When asked how the Institute could assist them, 10 boards expressed interest in receiving model regulations with supporting research, while three boards asked for research, evidence, and model regulations specific to AI. Nine boards asked for examples of how other states have addressed proposals with regulations or rules. Additionally, boards expressed interest in model standard-of-care regulations; remote order entry; data protection/cybersecurity; state inspection contracts between boards of nursing, pharmacy, and physicians; and a decision-making framework for boards to use when considering novel practice models.

The committee noted that the boards' strong response to the survey confirms their interest in this type of information, indicating that the Institute is on the right track to fill this need. Staff said NABP will follow up with individual states regarding the challenges and desires they described in the survey and will share feedback with the boards and the committee to help frame next steps.

Regarding the Institute's call for innovator applications, staff relayed that the Institute has received several proposals from industry stakeholders. While some looked promising, some were deemed unsuitable for the Institute because the applicants were either seeking to gather NABP-held data or to promote a product, or they lacked regulatory barriers relevant to the Institute's mission. Staff reiterated that the Institute does not intend to promote or endorse any particular technology or practice model and that the Institute is seeking more applicants with ideas for technology and innovative practice models who are experiencing regulatory barriers.

Committee members observed that innovators who think they are not encountering regulatory barriers may simply be ignoring or unaware of them. Thus, they may not understand how the Institute could help them navigate the regulatory landscape. Conversely, members noted that institutions, particularly hospitals, are encountering barriers from boards of pharmacy; however, they may be unaware of the Institute's existence. The committee observed that both scenarios point to opportunities for more aggressive promotional activity.

The committee also suggested clarifying the purpose of the Institute in outreach and promotional materials to encourage more targeted proposals. Messaging should indicate that the Institute is not seeking to conduct research but rather to compile it from other sources to bridge the goals of industry stakeholders and regulators. The committee projected that more proposals will come as the Institute moves forward with its objectives and establishes a strong presence in the market.

Meanwhile, members said they found value in sharing ideas and observations with the steering committee to keep abreast of technology and regulatory developments. To that end, they agreed that quarterly meetings would be beneficial.

Given the speed of technological change, the committee considered taking a proactive approach to gathering information about AI regulation. Committee members shared observations and opportunities for AI, including one jurisdiction that is testing an AI scribe that has been shown to save five minutes per interaction. It was noted that while there are no regulatory barriers to this innovation from the board's perspective, concerns persist. In response, the board developed an AI policy for this use case.



Committee members also noted that they have observed the use of AI in health care settings to process prior authorizations, match patients with financial aid and patient assistance programs, and facilitate other technology-based patient problem-solving.

Regarding other activities to advance the Institute, staff described its progress on a grant proposal to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). If received, the grant would support the Institute's efforts to achieve its objectives, which would also benefit nursing regulators. NCSBN has expressed interest in the project, noting that the scope overlaps with nursing regulation, and encouraged NABP to apply for the grant. The committee expressed support for pursuing this grant, and members offered to connect staff with nursing professionals for feedback if needed to assist with the proposal.

Staff explained that a key objective of the Institute is to develop a web page targeted toward boards of pharmacy and other health care regulators. As currently envisioned, the web page will be developed as an extension of the NABP website but hidden from public view. It will be accessible via a link provided to invited users. Designated staff will assist in developing this resource, which will include articles, reports, and data, organized by topic, on the successes and challenges of new technology in health care. It will also include information on the experiences of states that have already approved novel practice models. This information will include existing NABP resources (eg, model rules, articles, and reports) and solicited information from boards of pharmacy.

Members considered whether the Institute web page would be a good opportunity for the steering committee to gain experience with AI. Using AI to help develop the page and to help viewers navigate the information would provide the steering committee with firsthand insight into opportunities and pitfalls of this technology, and would help to establish credibility for the web page. The committee suggested two use cases: 1) staff could use AI to gather information on new technologies and innovative practice models for review and possible inclusion on the web page; and 2) the web page could include an AI assistant that regulators could use to obtain information and references on specific topics, pulling information solely from the vetted resources on the web page.

## Next Steps

The committee outlined several next steps for staff to complete in the coming months:

1. Follow up with specific states that responded to the survey to obtain more details on their experiences and challenges. This information will be shared with the committee and the boards of pharmacy.
2. Explore collaboration with NASP, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and Health System Owned Specialty Pharmacy Alliance, particularly focusing on health systems and hospitals.
3. Complete and submit the NCSBN grant proposal.
4. Schedule quarterly virtual meetings for the steering committee.