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## How Have States Responded to Illicit Pill Presses?

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From NABP <news@nabp.pharmacy>

Date Wed 7/30/2025 7:32 PM

To Barron, Karin (DOH) <karin.barron@dc.gov>

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# NABP WEEKLY

*Educational, Regulatory,  
and Association News*



## Pill Press Seizures, Legislation, and Policy Changes Examined in PSM Report

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The Partnership for Safe Medicines (PSM) recently published a report covering pill press seizures, legislation, and policy developments from January through June 2025. The report highlights domestic and international interceptions of illicit pill presses. PSM notes that Congress passed the Stop the Opioid Pill Presser and Fentanyl Act, and certain states are considering imposing additional bills to suppress the purchasing, selling, owning, and delivering of machines intended to produce controlled or counterfeit controlled substances (CS).

[Find More Details About Pill Presses](#)

## **HALT Fentanyl Act Signed Into Law**

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The Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act (HALT Fentanyl Act) was signed into law on July 16, 2025. Under this law, fentanyl-related substances will be categorized as Schedule I under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA). Offenses that involve fentanyl-related substances of the “same quantity thresholds” will be subject to the same penalties as fentanyl analogues. Furthermore, the bill enacts changes to the registration process for conducting research involving Schedule I and CS. The HALT Fentanyl Act also aligns with the interpretation of the term “controlled substance analogue,” which was established in the 2018 *United States v. McCray* case, in which the court determined that butyryl fentanyl can be considered a fentanyl analogue, despite the CSA excluding the term “controlled substance” from the definition of “controlled substance analogue.”

[Read the Bill](#)

## **Influenza Vaccines in US Will No Longer Contain Thimerosal**

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The US Department of Health and Human Services will require vaccine manufacturers to remove the [mercury-based preservative thimerosal](#)

from all influenza vaccines distributed in the US. This action follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recent recommendation from its June 2025 meeting.

[Learn More About the Requirement](#)

## WHO and UNODC Identify Gaps in Supply Chain

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World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published a new report identifying vulnerabilities in the pharmaceutical supply chain. Falsified labels, lack of regulatory oversight, and deficiencies in post-market surveillance are among the key findings that undermine the safety and efficacy of medications. The report also lists recommendations for improving areas of the supply chain system, such as regulating and inspecting the manufacturing and distribution process and informing health care providers of the effects of contaminated medications.

[View the Organizations' Recommendations](#)

## Researchers Determine That Pharmacist-Administered Vaccines Improve Vaccine Coverage Rates

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A recent study in Denmark on pharmacist-administered vaccines showed an increase in influenza vaccination coverage rates (VCRs), affirming the vital role of pharmacists in protecting public health worldwide. Previous studies have also confirmed the important role of pharmacist-based vaccination in the US. According to CDC data, US pharmacists administered over 37 million flu vaccines from August 2024 to April 2025 alone. In the Danish study, researchers collected data on how a 2015 vaccine policy change affected the country's VCR. They found that after

pharmacists were permitted to administer vaccines, the VCR increased by 8.3% from 2015-2019. Furthermore, findings indicated that the mean annual change in influenza VCRs among older adults was nearly three percentage points higher after the new policy took effect.

[Learn More About the Vaccine Study](#)

## **SAMHSA Tracks Results From Grant Programs Aimed to Reduce Overdose Deaths**

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The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) designed an infographic that tracks the results of two of its grant programs responsible for distributing naloxone. The Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug and Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths and the First Responders—Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act programs recorded the number of opioid overdose reversal medications distributed and used, as well as the number of individuals trained to administer them between 2017 and 2024.

[Download SAMHSA's Infographic](#)

## **Career Intentions Affect Students' Reasoning for Pursuing Patient-Facing Roles**

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Researchers analyzed the motivations behind pharmacy students' reasons for pursuing patient-facing (PF) and non-patient-facing (non-PF) roles. In a cross-sectional study conducted from October 31-November 28, 2023, 311 students from the University College Cork in Ireland were asked to rank the factors that influenced their desire to study pharmacy and that influenced their career intentions. Based on the results, students who highly valued direct patient contact, the impact of a job on health, and personal well-being were interested in working in a PF role, whereas

students who considered potential benefits, the stressful nature of the work, promotion, and the availability of training opportunities were more inclined to pursue non-PF roles.

[View the Factors Influencing Career Intentions](#)

*NABP Weekly* is a publication prepared by NABP. Please send any comments, questions, or suggestions about the electronic newsletter to [commdept@nabp.pharmacy](mailto:commdept@nabp.pharmacy). We look forward to receiving your feedback.



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## New NABP Webinars: Regulating Technology and Embracing Just Culture

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## New NABP Webinars: Regulating Technology and Embracing Just Culture

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NABP is offering pharmacy professionals three new on-demand webinars for continuing pharmacy education credit:

- ***Regulating Technology to Support Innovation in the Protection of Public Health and the Well-Being of Health Care Personnel.***

Participants will learn about how NABP Foundation<sup>®</sup>'s Research and Innovation Institute provides an environment to evaluate relevant technologies; shares digital health concepts and resources; and serves as an impartial connector and facilitator between the boards of pharmacy, regulated entities, and third parties.

- ***Board of Pharmacy Action Decision Tree – a “Just” Approach to Discipline.*** Participants will learn how to utilize this newly developed tool by reviewing various scenarios presented by board executive officers to determine whether licensee conduct is disciplinable and, if so, what type of discipline is appropriate for the situation at hand.

- ***On the Frontier: Emerging Topics.*** This panel session will discuss regulatory issues submitted by attendees of the 121<sup>st</sup> NABP Annual Meeting, including updates on the implementation of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act and Pulse by NABP<sup>™</sup>, as well as the Interstate Privilege model and glucagon-like peptide-1 compounding. This format will provide participants with the unique opportunity to hear about insights that are valuable to the boards' work and learn about solutions that can help to overcome the challenges that boards face.

All three webinars are available for purchase.

Explore NABP's Webinars

## **FDA Issues Updates to State Importation Program**

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For states and Indian tribes working towards developing importation proposals under Section 804 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced that it intends

to work with other divisions of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to help reduce the burden associated with indicating how a proposed Section 804 importation program will significantly reduce the cost of drugs intended to be imported.

[Read About the State Importation Program](#)

## **DEA Warns of Impersonation Scam Targeting Health Care Practitioners**

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Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) warns about an impersonation scam targeting health care practitioners. DEA registrants and non-registrants have reported receiving fake letters and phone calls informing them that they are under investigation. The agency stresses that DEA personnel will never contact individuals requesting money or personal or sensitive information. Individuals subject to a legitimate DEA investigation will be notified in person or via an official letter. If you are contacted by someone claiming to be from DEA and saying that you are under investigation, DEA encourages you to report the incident to the Federal Bureau of Investigation website at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

[Learn How to Protect Against Identity Theft](#)

## **Start the Conversation: DEA's New Tips for Talking With Youth About Substance Use**

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To support discussion on substance use, DEA has released five new guides for caregivers of youth and young adults. The tip sheets are available in English and [Spanish](#). The agency provides this information in its [\*\*\*Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent's Guide to Substance Use Prevention\*\*\*](#), along with tips for teaching safe medicine storage and how to proceed if caregivers suspect their child is abusing drugs.



## ***Innovations*: 'Breaking Down Barriers: The Push for Pharmacist License Portability'**

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Five years after the COVID-19 pandemic placed unprecedented strain on health care systems already experiencing increased demand, workforce and patient access challenges remain pressing concerns for many boards of pharmacy. At the same time, evolving practice models involving telepharmacy, central fill services, and remote medication verification have increased the need for pharmacists to be able to practice in multiple states. While the current licensure framework continues to play a vital role in protecting patients and upholding professional standards, many boards have identified a growing need for additional pathways that can expand practice flexibility while preserving state oversight.

In the June 2025 issue of *Innovations*<sup>®</sup>, discover more about the developing Interstate Pharmacist Practice Privilege that would grant qualified pharmacists the privilege to practice virtually or in person across participating jurisdictions while maintaining those states' authority to set requirements and regulate pharmacy practice.

Catch the Full Story



## NABP Hosted Pharmacy Professional Recovery Program Forum

NABP recently held a Pharmacy Professional Recovery Program Forum at its Headquarters on July 15-16, as called for by Resolution No. 120-3-24 Development of a National Forum for Pharmacy Professional Recovery Programs, at the 120<sup>th</sup> NABP Annual Meeting.

[Learn About the Resolution >](#)

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