

**899 NORTH CAPITOL ST. NE – 2ND FLR.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

August 5, 2021

9:30 am

**OPEN SESSION AGENDA
(VIA ZOOM MEETING DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY)**

Board of Pharmacy Mission Statement:

“To protect and improve the public health through the efficient and effective regulation of the practice of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Detailing; through the licensure of Pharmacists, Pharmaceutical Detailers, Pharmacy Interns, and Pharmacy Technicians.”

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESIDING:

BOARD MEMBERSHIP/ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:		
	DR. TAMARA McCANTS, PHARM.D. R.PH CHAIRPERSON	
	MR. ALAN FRIEDMAN, R.PH, VICE CHAIRPERSON	
	DR. BENJAMIN MILES, PHARM.D. R.PH	
	DR. ASHLEE BOW, PHARM.D. R.PH	
	DR. ALLISON HILL, PHARM.D. R.PH	
	GREGORY CENDANA, CONSUMER MEMBER	
STAFF:	SHAUNA WHITE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
	KARIN BARRON, HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST	
	LUANNE GREENAWAY, PROGRAM SPECIALIST	
	COUNTEE GILLIAM, BOARD INVESTIGATOR	
LEGAL STAFF:	CARLA WILLIAMS, SENIOR ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL	
VISITORS:		

Open Session Agenda

Quorum:

Introduction:		
o805-O-01	<u>Approval of the Open Session Meeting Minutes for</u> June 3, 2021	
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	None	
<u>Chairperson Report</u>	<u>Interprofessional Workgroup</u>	Dr. Tamara McCants
<u>Executive Director Report</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statistical Report on Pharmacy professionals in the District of Columbia ▪ Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Updates ▪ DCRx (DC Center for Rational Prescribing) 	Dr. Shauna White
<u>Senior Assistant General Counsel Report</u>		
	None	
<u>Subcommittee Reports</u>		
o805-O-02	<u>Legislative and Regulatory Subcommittee Report</u>	Mr. Friedman
o805-O-03	<u>Communications Subcommittee Report</u>	Dr. Ashlee Bow
<u>Matters for Consideration</u>		
o805-O-04	<u>DC Immunization Consent Question</u> <u>Kristen Fink, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, CDCES</u> <u>Kaiser Permanente</u> (a) Email Communication	
NABP E-Newsletter	<u>July 28, 2021</u> Reminder – Register for NABP’s Upcoming Live Webinar on Biosimilar and Interchangeable Products	Dr. Tamara McCants

	<p>Former NECC Supervisory Pharmacist Who Sparked Deadly 2012 Meningitis Outbreak Resentenced to Prison</p> <p>New CDC Data Show Record Numbers of Overdose Deaths in 2020</p> <p>New FIP Vaccination Handbook for Pharmacists</p> <p>Pharmacy Has Played a Vital Role in COVID-19 Vaccinations, New Data Highlights</p> <p>South Carolina’s Opioid Emergency Response Team Issues Warning of Counterfeit ‘Blue Pills’ Circulating in the State</p> <p><u>July 21, 2021</u></p> <p>New NABP Patient Education Kit Allows Boards of Pharmacy, Health Care Providers to Share Important Online Medication Safety Information</p> <p>New Web Page Promotes NABP President Juran’s Drug Importation Initiative</p> <p>New Survey Results Show Americans Are Prioritizing Cost Over Safety When Buying Medications Online</p> <p>FDA Alerts Health Care Professionals About Chantix Recall Due to Nitrosamine Impurities</p> <p>Note to the Public: To receive weekly updates from NABP, please sign up by using the following link:</p> <p>https://nabp.pharmacy/newsroom/news/.</p>	
<p><u>Comments from the Public</u></p>		
<p><u>Motion to Adjourn the Open Session</u></p>		

This concludes the Public Open Session of the meeting. The Board will now move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b) for the reasons set forth in the motion.

Open Session Meeting Adjourned at __: __ AM.

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.

**899 NORTH CAPITOL ST. NE – 2ND FLOOR.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

June 3, 2021

9:31 AM – 10:39 AM

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES
(VIA ZOOM MEETING DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY)**

Board of Pharmacy Mission Statement:

“To protect and improve the public health through the efficient and effective regulation of the practice of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Detailing; through the licensure of Pharmacists, Pharmaceutical Detailers, Pharmacy Interns, and Pharmacy Technicians.”

CALL TO ORDER:

PRESIDING: DR. TAMARA McCANTS, PHARM.D. R.PH CHAIRPERSON

BOARD MEMBERSHIP/ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS:		
	DR. TAMARA McCANTS, PHARM.D. R.PH CHAIRPERSON	PRESENT
	MR. ALAN FRIEDMAN, R.PH, VICE CHAIRPERSON	PRESENT
	DR. BENJAMIN MILES, PHARM.D. R.PH	PRESENT
	DR. ASHLEE BOW, PHARM.D. R.PH	PRESENT
	DR. ALLISON HILL, PHARM.D. R.PH	ABSENT
	GREGORY CENDANA, CONSUMER MEMBER	PRESENT
STAFF:	SHAUNA WHITE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	PRESENT
	KARIN BARRON, HEALTH LICENSING SPECIALIST	PRESENT
	LUANNE GREENAWAY, PROGRAM SPECIALIST	PRESENT
	COUNTEE GILLIAM, BOARD INVESTIGATOR	PRESENT
LEGAL STAFF:	CARLA WILLIAMS, SENIOR ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL	PRESENT
VISITORS:	TOYIN TAFADE, HOWARD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY	
	CASSANDRA LATNEY, HOWARD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY	
	ANGELA BRYANT, CVS PHARMACY	
	CHARLENE FAIRFAX – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE	
	JEENU PHILLIP, WALGREENS PHARMACY	
	CAROLYN RACHEL-PRICE, DC PHARMACY ASSOCIATION	
	LAVELLE WILLIAMS-SMITH, WALGREENS	
	JA'MIERA STUART, PHARMACIST	
	JESSICA SZATKOWSKI, PHARMACIST	
	CLYDE SPENCE, PHARMACIST	
	QUAN CHESS, PHARMACIST	

Open Session Agenda

Quorum:

Introduction:		
o603-O-01	<p><u>Approval of the Open Session Meeting Minutes for</u></p> <p>April 1, 2021</p> <p>Motion: Board Member, Dr. Ashlee Bow moves the Board to approve the April 1, 2021 Board of Pharmacy Open Session Minutes.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Benjamin Miles.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Ashlee Bow: Votes in favor of the motion. Mr. Gregory Cendana: Votes in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Abstentions: None.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p> <p><u>Approval of the Open Session Meeting Minutes for</u></p> <p>May 6, 2021</p> <p>Motion: Board Member Dr. Ashlee Bow moves the Board to approve the May 6, 2021 Board of Pharmacy Open Session Minutes.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Benjamin Miles.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Ashlee Bow: Votes in favor of the motion. Mr. Gregory Cendana: Abstains from voting on the motion.</p>	
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	None	
<u>Chairperson Report</u>	<u>Interprofessional Workgroup</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Dr. McCants reports that two members of the Board have been appointed to assist with the interprofessional summit that the District is currently planning. While a general	Dr. Tamara McCants

	<p>meeting has occurred, no further activity is reported by Dr. Miles.</p> <p><u>NABP Annual Meeting- May 13-14, 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Members of the DC Board of Pharmacy attended the 117th NABP Annual Meeting, which was held on May 13 – 14, 2021. ➤ Dr. McCants served as the chair of the Constitution and By-laws Committee at the NABP Annual Meeting. ➤ Dr. McCants encourages the Board members to serve on NABP’s task forces. 	
<p><u>Executive Director Report</u></p>	<p><u>Statistical Report on pharmacy professionals in the District of Columbia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pharmacists: 1,984 ➤ Pharmacists with Vaccination and Immunization Authority: 678 ➤ Pharmacy Interns: 782 ➤ Pharmacy Technicians: 833 ➤ Pharmacy Technician Trainees: 134 ➤ Pharmacy Technician Training Programs: 14 ➤ Pharmaceutical Detailers: 693 <p><u>Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Licensees who are registrants of the District’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program are receiving electronic mail concerning webinars. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ➤ The program also offering integration into an electronic health record or a dispensing system. Anyone interested in these services for a pharmacy location may find further information at https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/prescription-drug-monitoring-program. <p><u>Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technician Licensure Renewal Period for 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The late licensure renewal period for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians ended on April 30, 2021. <p><u>DC RX (DC Center for Rational Prescribing)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ DCRX is continuing to publish continuing education credit courses, all of which can be reviewed at https://dchealth.dc.gov/dcrx. ➤ A course in HIV Education is now available, and another in Implicit Bias is forthcoming. <p><u>Licensure Audits</u></p> <p>The following are the results of the Continuing Education Audits conducted by the DC Board of Pharmacy:</p>	<p>Dr. Shauna White</p>

Cycle	Profession	Total Audited	Passed Audit	Failed Audit
2015-2017	Pharmacist	195	110	85
2017-2019	Pharmacist	267	206	26
2017-2019	Technician	89	67	22
2016-2018	Detailer	54	32	22
2018-2020	Detailer	43	14***	***

***The 2018-2020 Pharmaceutical Detailer Audit is ongoing.

Motion: Board Member, Dr. Benjamin Miles moves the Board to:

1. Audit ten percent (10%) of pharmacists and ten percent (10%) of pharmacy technicians for the licensure renewal cycle of 2019-2021, including the pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who failed the audit during the 2017 – 2019 licensure renewal cycle.
2. Require all audited pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to submit proof of completing continuing education credits via dcbop@dc.gov.

Seconded by: Mr. Alan Friedman.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in favor of the motion.

Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion.

Dr. Ashlee Bow: Votes in favor of the motion.

Mr. Gregory Cendana: Votes in favor of the motion.

Abstentions: None.

Motion carried.

Opioid Labeling Registration

Motion: Board Member, Mr. Alan Friedman moves the Board to refer the registration of the Opioid Labeling Act to the Legislative and Regulatory Subcommittee, thereby requesting that a recommendation is made to the DC Board of Pharmacy.

Seconded by: Dr. Benjamin Miles.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in favor of the motion.

Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion.

Dr. Ashlee Bow: Votes in favor of the motion.

Mr. Gregory Cendana: Votes in favor of the motion.

Pharmacy Security Updates

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Investigator, Countee Gilliam informs the DC Board of Pharmacy and the public that pharmacies are experiencing an increase in robberies; and recommends that pharmacies seek training in security awareness in response to the robberies. ➤ Board Counsel, Ms. Carla Williams recommends a partnership between the DC Pharmacy Association and security experts with the District for security training, to include structural changes, location(s) of cameras, etc. ➤ Vice President of the DC Pharmacy Association, Ms. Carolyn Rachel-Price informs the DC Board of Pharmacy and the public that the matter will be raised at the Association’s next Board meeting and the outcome will be reported to the DC Board of Pharmacy at its next public meeting. <p><u>New Online Licensing System</u></p> <p>The District of Columbia’s Board of Pharmacy announces its new online licensing system. Effective immediately, any pharmacy professional who is interested in applying for a new license, or electing to renew, reinstate, or reactivate an existing license, may submit an online application at:</p> <p>https://doh.force.com/dchealthrenewals/s/portal-page.</p> <p><i>All users are strongly encouraged to review the instructions prior to beginning the process.</i></p>	
<u>Senior Assistant General Counsel Report</u>		
	None	
<u>Subcommittee Reports</u>		
o6o1-O-02	<p><u>Legislative and Regulatory Subcommittee Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Legislative and Regulatory Subcommittee met on May 25, 2021 to continue discussions on potential regulatory changes. ➤ All applicable sections of the HORA have been reviewed and the subcommittee will make recommendations on several sections. ➤ The committee has reviewed the immunization protocol of other states, specifically the pharmacist’s authorization to immunize. ➤ We have reviewed the Pharmacy Practice Act. ➤ The subcommittee is currently reviewing and discussing the other states’ requirements to work in the capacity of Pharmacist-In-Charge. 	Mr. Friedman

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The subcommittee also held discussions on Collaborative Practice Agreements. ➤ The next scheduled meeting is on June 10, 2021. ➤ The Subcommittee is currently seeking feedback on vaccination authority and is in receipt of feedback on Pharmacist-In-Charge requirements in other states. ➤ Discussions will be held on potential regulatory changes in modifying citizenship and legal status information in Chapter 65; and a survey on workplace conditions for pharmacists and technicians. ➤ Future discussions will be held on Tech-Check-Tech, No Call State and the regulatory requirements regarding the Opioid Labeling Amendment Act. ➤ Dr. Toyin Tofade inquires on the next steps regarding the Pharmacy Practice Act. Mr. Friedman informs her and the public that the Subcommittee is currently referring to the HORA to create an appropriate regulatory environment for the Pharmacy Practice Act. 	
o6o1-O-03	<p><u>Communications Subcommittee Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The DC Board of Pharmacy’s Newsletter for May, 2021 was published and can be viewed at www.nabp.pharmacy. ➤ The Board’s next newsletter will be published in August, 2021. To submit content for this newsletter, please contact Dr. Ashlee Bow. 	Dr. Ashlee Bow
NABP E-Newsletter	<p><u>May 19, 2021</u></p> <p>NABP Membership Approves Six Resolutions at the Association’s 117th Annual Meeting</p> <p>2021-2022 Executive Committee Inaugurated at NABP’s 117th Annual Meeting</p> <p>NABP Announces 2021 Leaders at the Forefront of Public Health Protection</p> <p>FDA Warns of Biological Products Being Offered to Patients Outside the Scope of an Approved BLA</p> <p>New USP Guide Provides Strategies, Techniques for Maximizing Moderna’s COVID-19 Vaccine Doses</p> <p>New Study Shows Extended-Release Buprenorphine is Preferred by Patients in Treating OUD</p> <p>FDA Authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for EUA in Adolescents</p> <p><u>June 26, 2021</u></p>	Dr. Tamara McCants

	<p>Reminder: Share Feedback on ACPE Standards Revision Process</p> <p>Counterfeit Pill Production Remains a Nationwide Threat, Updated Report Urges Action</p> <p>New CDC Study Shows COVID-19 Vaccines Are 94% Effective at Preventing Illness Among Health Care Workers</p> <p>Study Results Show Pfizer’s COVID-19 Vaccine Provides Strong Protection Against Variants</p> <p>Warning Letter Issued for Unapproved and Misbranded COVID-19 Products</p> <p>Note to the Public: To receive weekly updates from NABP, please sign up by using the following link: https://nabp.pharmacy/newsroom/news/</p>	
<p><u>Comments from the Public</u></p>	<p><u>Carolyn Rachel-Price, DC Pharmacy Association announces the following:</u></p> <p>The DC Pharmacy Association has acquired office space in the District of Columbia. The new address for the association is:</p> <p>1140 3rd Street NE Washington, DC 20002</p> <p><u>Dr. Toyin Tofade, Howard University College of Pharmacy announces the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Howard University School of Pharmacy completed its accreditation review in April, 2021, and will receive the results of its accreditation in July, 2021. <p><u>Jeenu Phillip, Walgreens Pharmacy asks the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Phillip comments on continuing education, as the subject matter was discussed at the general and break-out sessions of the NABP Annual Meeting. He questions the value that continuing education adds to the pharmacist, and asks if the failure of an audit indicates a pharmacist’s incompetence to practice pharmacy. He states that he is curious to see how state boards across the country pursue this matter. ➤ Mr. Phillip asks that the Legislative and Regulatory Subcommittee considers other states’ opioid labelling requirements so that the District does not create a label that is different from those of other states. 	
<p><u>Motion to Adjourn the Open Session</u></p>	<p>Board member, Dr. Benjamin Miles moves as follows:</p> <p>“Madam Chair, I move that the Board close the Open Public session portion of the meeting and move into the Closed Executive Session</p>	

	<p>portion of the meeting pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b) for the following purposes: to discuss disciplinary matters pursuant to § 2-575(b)(9); to seek the advice of counsel to the board, to preserve the attorney-client privilege, or to approve settlement agreements pursuant to § 2-575(b)(4); and to plan, discuss, or hear reports concerning ongoing or planned investigations pursuant to § 2-575(b)(14).”</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Ashlee Bow.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote: Mr. Alan Friedman: Votes in Favor of the motion. Dr. Benjamin Miles: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Ashlee Bow: Votes in favor of the motion. Dr. Allison Hill: Votes in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Abstentions: None.</p> <p>Motion Carried.</p>	
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This concludes the Public Open Session of the meeting. The Board will now move into the Closed Executive Session portion of the meeting pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b) for the reasons set forth in the motion.

Open Session Meeting Adjourned at 10:39 AM.

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.

Barron, Karin (DOH)

From: Barron, Karin (DOH)
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:35 PM
Subject: Fw: DC Immunization Consent Question

From: Kristen M. Fink [mailto:Kristen.M.Fink@kp.org]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 1:39 PM
To: White, Shauna (DOH) <shauna.white@dc.gov>
Cc: Kristen M. Fink <Kristen.M.Fink@kp.org>
Subject: DC Immunization Consent Question

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Good Afternoon Shauna,

I hope you are doing well and your summer is off to a nice start. We have a question/concern for the DC Board of Pharmacy regarding the consent process for immunizing Pharmacists.

Kaiser Permanente has a question regarding DC BReg 6512- Administration of Immunization and Vaccinations by Pharmacists.

The current language indicates that "The pharmacist shall obtain the patient's informed written consent prior to administering the immunization or vaccination." (6512.14)

As we continue to minimize our contact with patients in the fight against COVID-19, our Pharmacists at Kaiser Permanente are interested in implementing a paperless workflow. This would also allow our Pharmacists to follow the same procedures and workflow as our Nursing partners.

DC Law Chapter 49 16-4901 Authorization for medical consent for a minor by an adult caregiver implies that a "written consent form" is required to be signed by the parent or legal guardian. We are unable to find any additional information regarding the use of a written consent form in the DC Board Regulations.

Is there any guidance as to whether this consent form can be electronic? If the patient would like a copy, the patient could request a copy through our Records department. Any guidance or feedback that can be provided would be greatly appreciated. If there is any way we can receive a response before July 31, we would very much appreciate it.

Thank you,

Kristen Fink, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, CDCES
Academic Affairs Coordinator, Kaiser Permanente Mid- Atlantic Region
Director, PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program

Kaiser Permanente
Mid- Atlantic States Region
Pharmacy, 6th Floor
4000 Garden City Drive

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Reminder – Register for NABP’s Upcoming Live Webinar on Biosimilar and Interchangeable Products

There is still time to register for NABP’s upcoming live webinar, *Biosimilar and Interchangeable Products: What Do Pharmacists Need to Know?*, that takes place on July 29, from 1-2 PM CDT. Featuring guest speakers from Food and Drug Administration’s Office of Therapeutic Biologics and Biosimilars, the webinar will provide attendees with an overview of scientific concepts about biological products and the scientific and regulatory basis for the biosimilar pathway.

This live webinar is eligible for one hour of Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education-accredited continuing pharmacy education credit (CPE). More details, including credit information and how to register, can be found in the [CPE Activity Information Guide](#).

Register Now

Former NECC Supervisory Pharmacist Who Sparked Deadly 2012 Meningitis Outbreak Resentenced to Prison

The former New England Compounding Center (NECC) supervisory pharmacist, Glenn Chin, who was responsible for a deadly 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak that sickened 793 patients and killed more than 100 people, has been resentenced to 10 and a half years in prison. [Chin’s](#) original eight-year punishment was tossed by an appeals court two weeks after co-founder Barry Cadden received a new prison term of 14 and a half years.

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safety of compounded drug products. The 2012 outbreak was the impetus for the development of the Verified Pharmacy Program[®] (VPP[®]), which launched one year following the tragic event. Since then, VPP has assisted boards of pharmacy with verifying inspection and other data when licensing nonresident pharmacies.

[Learn More](#)

New CDC Data Show Record Numbers of Overdose Deaths in 2020

According to provisional data on drug overdose deaths in 2020, nearly 93,331 people have died from overdoses in the United States. The data, released from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) National Center for Health Statistics, is the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded. According to the data, a nearly 30% increase in overdose deaths was reported in 2020 compared to the previous year, which is the largest increase reported since 1999. In addition, three-quarters of overdose deaths were due to synthetic opioids and illegally manufactured fentanyl.

During the height of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, overdose deaths began to increase, and many prevention programs were either shut down or had very limited access. For more information on the pandemic’s impact on the opioid epidemic, see the October 2020 cover story of [Innovations[®]](#).

[Read More](#)

New FIP Vaccination Handbook for Pharmacists

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) recently launched a vaccination handbook to help pharmacists in their role of providing vaccinations. The handbook details ways in which pharmacists can contribute to improving vaccination coverage, storage, record keeping, procedures, safety, frequently asked questions, and more.

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pharmacists take on to increase vaccination coverage.

Download the Vaccination Handbook

Pharmacy Has Played a Vital Role in COVID-19 Vaccinations, New Data Highlights

An infographic, published on the National Association of Chain Drug Stores website, highlights new data from the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, showing pharmacy’s vital role in COVID-19 vaccinations. A few statistics highlighted note that:

- 47% of shots administered by pharmacies were in high social vulnerability index areas (in the last two weeks);
- 99 million doses have been administered so far in 2021; and
- 9,906 pharmacy pop-up clinics gave COVID-19 doses.

In addition to COVID-19 vaccines being provided through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, pharmacies are also providing COVID-19 vaccines through state programs.

View the Data

South Carolina’s Opioid Emergency Response Team Issues Warning of Counterfeit ‘Blue Pills’ Circulating in the State

The South Carolina Opioid Emergency Response Team (OERT) has issued a warning about counterfeit 30 mg Roxicodone[®] (known as “blue pills”). [*The Partnership for Safe Medicines*](#) noted that typically, the blue pills are acquired by family members or friends not knowing they contain fentanyl. Approximately 500 people have suffered from fentanyl poisoning since January 2020, after taking the blue pill. The OERT report notes that a high percentage of the overdoses with blue pills involve individuals ages 20-29.

Read OERT’s

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New NABP Patient Education Kit Allows Boards of Pharmacy, Health Care Providers to Share Important Online Medication Safety Information

As part of its 2021 consumer awareness campaign, NABP has created a patient education kit for boards of pharmacy and other health care organizations and providers to share important online medication safety information with patients in their state. The education kit includes social media posts and images, a public service announcement video, a newsletter article, and a PowerPoint presentation that can be shared through various social channels to support NABP's #BuySafely initiative.

In May 2021, NABP launched its 2021 consumer awareness campaign to inform consumers about the dangers of buying medicine from unlicensed pharmacies online and through social media accounts. NABP's awareness campaign sends patients to NABP's consumer [website](#), which provides patients with a tool to check if a site is "Verified" or "Not Recommended," as well as educates on the issue.

Before You Buy, **Verify**
safe.pharmacy/buy-safely

 The complex block contains three hexagonal icons arranged horizontally. The first icon is a white warning sign on a dark blue background. The second icon is a white smartphone with a plus sign on a dark purple background. The third icon is a white pharmacy building on a dark red background.

Share Posts for Our #Buysafely Initiative

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New Web Page Promotes NABP President Juran’s Drug Importation Initiative

In an effort to support boards of pharmacy and educate the public about state drug importation plans, NABP President Caroline D. Juran, BSP Pharm, DPh (Hon), has made drug importation safety the focus of her 2021-2022 presidential initiative. Information about Juran’s initiative and other NABP resources related to drug importation can be found on the Presidential Initiative web page. An in-depth review about the challenges of wholesale drug importation and how NABP and its member boards of pharmacy are ensuring patient safety is available in the cover story of NABP’s [June-July 2021 issue](#) of *Innovations*®.

[View the Presidential Initiative Web Page](#)

New Survey Results Show Americans Are Prioritizing Cost Over Safety When Buying Medications Online

Most Americans are prioritizing cost and convenience over safety when shopping for medications online, according to a 2021 survey from the ASOP Global Foundation. The survey measured Americans' perceptions and use of online pharmacies, as well as their awareness of and response to the federal government's final rule on prescription drug importation. More than one-third of consumers polled in the survey said they would knowingly ignore explicit government prohibitions from buying medicines from Canadian online pharmacies because of their misperceptions that they can safely access cheaper medications from sources abroad.

Additional key findings from the survey note:

- 45% of Americans erroneously believe all websites offering health care services/prescription medications to Americans via the internet have been approved by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or state regulators;
- Nearly half of Americans would be open to purchasing prescription medicines from an online source not sanctioned by FDA if it increased their access, decreased their cost, and provided convenience to more medicines;
- 34% said knowing that the Prescription Drugs Final Rule explicitly prohibits individual American patients from buying medicines from Canadian online

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- 72% of Americans said verified websites should appear first when searching for medications online.

While more than one-third of Americans are now aware of patient harms linked to online prescription medication purchases – up 9% from 2020 – the new poll finds consumers still hold dangerous misperceptions about online pharmacies.

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

FDA Alerts Health Care Professionals About Chantix Recall Due to Nitrosamine Impurities

FDA has recently alerted health care professionals and patients about Pfizer’s voluntary recall for the distribution of varenicline (Chantix®) due to possible levels of a nitrosamine impurity, called N-nitroso-varenicline. The levels of N-nitroso-varenicline are above FDA’s acceptable limit. Pfizer is only recalling lots currently stored in warehouses, and FDA is recommending that Pfizer revise their recall to the consumer level for the product that is on the market.

Adverse reactions or quality problems experienced with the use of this product may be reported to FDA’s [MedWatch](#) Adverse Event Reporting program.

[Learn More](#)



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