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## What Is the Future of OUD Treatment and Policy?

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From NABP <news@nabp.pharmacy>  
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## NABP WEEKLY

*Educational, Regulatory, and Association News*



**NABP Offers Webinar on Handling Hazardous Drugs**

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NABP is offering the home study webinar, *Safety in Every Step: Handling Hazardous Drugs Beyond the Standards*. This presentation outlines the required elements for the safe handling of hazardous drugs, as well as the challenges of maintaining compliance. While hazardous drugs are essential for patient care, they pose significant risks to health care providers if not handled safely. Even low-level exposures can lead to long-term health effects. Following evidence-based safety practices and regulatory standards, like United States Pharmacopeia (USP) <800>, helps protect staff, patients, and the environment. Safe handling is not just compliance – it is a commitment to the well-being of the entire health care team.

This home study webinar is a recording of the live activity that was held on November 5, 2025.

[Purchase the Webinar](#)

## ***Key Elements of a Pharmacist Practice Management Ecosystem Added to JCPP's 2025 Pharmacists' Patient Care Process***

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The *Key Elements of a Pharmacist Practice Management Ecosystem* complements the 2025 revision of the *Pharmacists' Patient Care Process*. Developed by national pharmacy education and practice leaders, the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP) [document](#) outlines a pharmacist practice management ecosystem designed to support high-quality, consistent patient care across settings.

[View JCPP's Document](#)

## ***CMS Allocates Funding for Rural Health Transformation Program***

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the allocation of funds to all 50 states as part of the Rural Health Transformation Program. These funds are part of an initiative aimed at improving access to health care in rural communities. Through the program, states are expected to invest in increasing preventive, primary, maternal, and behavioral health services, as well as strengthening system interoperability and digital tools to support health care practitioners. Furthermore, states will be required to share their progress, approaches, and implementation of plans with CMS.

[Learn More About CMS' Funding](#)

## FDA and EMA Release 10 Guiding Principles for Employing AI in Drug Development

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Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) have released a guidance for industry and product developers to consult when employing artificial intelligence (AI) in drug and biological product development. The *Guiding Principles of Good AI Practice in Drug Development* lists the following principles:

1. Human-centric by design
2. Risk-based approach
3. Adherence to standards
4. Clear context of use
5. Multidisciplinary expertise
6. Data governance and documentation
7. Model design and development practices
8. Risk-based performance assessment
9. Life cycle management
10. Clear, essential information

[Download FDA's Document](#)

## AMA's 2025 Report Outlines Future Approach for Addressing OUD

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The American Medical Association (AMA) reports that treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) remains underutilized, despite ongoing efforts to address the opioid crisis. In its *2025 AMA Report on Substance Use and Treatment: Progress, Policy and Future Directions*, the organization also highlights key trends in substance use disorders, including a rise in polysubstance use, ongoing regulatory barriers, and persistent stigma that limits access to OUD treatment. AMA offers recommendations for tackling each barrier that inhibits individuals from seeking care.

[Explore the 2025 AMA Report](#)

## New Tool Shows Promise for Auditing Electronic Prescriptions

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Researchers have developed a new tool called the [System Approach to Verifying Electronic Prescriptions](#), which has the potential to help pharmacists identify unintended discrepancies in electronic prescriptions. After analyzing 1,250,804 processed records from 14 community pharmacies across nine states, researchers found that 11.3% of these mismatches were classified by pharmacists as “unintended,” whereas 88.7% were “intended” mismatches. The unintended mismatches included discrepancies in ingredients, strengths, and dosage forms, with a majority attributed to human error and labeling issues.

[Read the Study Details](#)

## Overdose Deaths Decline Amid Reduced Drug Use and Expanded Prevention Efforts

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Researchers report that US drug overdose deaths declined in early 2025, potentially due to reduced drug use, widespread “fentanyl saturation” in the illicit drug market, and expanded prevention efforts. Between January and March 2025, there were 77,648 overdose deaths, down from 103,529 deaths during the same period in 2024 – a 25% decline. Researchers suggest that as fentanyl has mostly replaced other illegal opioids in the drug market, the number of people initiating opioid use has declined.

Researchers also credit prevention efforts, such as public awareness campaigns and the implementation of evidence-based strategies for preventing or reducing substance use, as contributing factors to the decline by lowering the number of individuals at risk of overdose.

#### Find Out What Other Factors Contributed

*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).

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