

# Joint Commission *of* Pharmacy Practitioners

## MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

### ORGANIZATION:

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)

November 29, 2016

- Organization Update:

- NAPLEX

On November 1, 2016, the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) program transitioned to a new administration model. Under the new model, the number of examination items increased from 185 to 250. Of the 250 delivered questions, 200 are operational and are used to calculate a score for the NAPLEX. The remaining 50 are non-scored or pretest items. The testing time for the examination also increased from four hours and fifteen minutes to six hours. The appointment time with the vendor, Pearson VUE, is now six and a half hours to allow for time to read and agree to the confidentiality/non-disclosure agreement, and to take the tutorial and post-exam survey. To account for the additional seat time, the registration fee was increase from \$505 to \$575.

The changes to the NAPLEX are the result of the Association's extensive development and ongoing evaluation process. The NAPLEX is continuously reviewed and evaluated to ensure the examination tests the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of an entry-level pharmacist. Below is an overview of the evaluation process that began in 2014 and resulted in new competency statements, a new passing standard, and the upcoming changes in the administration model.

- In 2014, NABP conducted the national NABP Pharmacy Practice Analysis Survey, with over 4,700 respondents (pharmacy regulators, practitioners, and academicians) participating.
- Subject matter experts analyzed results of the survey, which were also reviewed by the NAPLEX Review Committee, the Advisory Committee on Examinations (ACE), and the NABP Executive Committee, and

resulted in new competency statements for the NAPLEX. The NAPLEX competency statements were implemented in November 2015 and are available in the Programs section of the NABP website at [www.nabp.pharmacy](http://www.nabp.pharmacy). Also, as of November 2015, more clinical-based/patient-centered test items were included.

- A standard setting study was conducted in March 2015, and the new passing standard was implemented in November 2015. The panel that participated in the standard setting study was composed of members of the NABP Executive Committee, members of ACE, the NAPLEX Review Committee, and pharmacist practitioners/academicians recruited from respondents to the 2014 survey. A detailed overview of the standard setting process is available in the June-July 2015 NABP Newsletter.

Further analysis of the practice analysis survey, NAPLEX content and test specifications, test design and assembly, and administrative processes, resulted in the recommendation to increase the depth and breadth of the content tested on the NAPLEX.