

# Joint Commission *of* Pharmacy Practitioners

## MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

### ORGANIZATION:

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)

August 4, 2020

- Organization Update:

- NABP Passport

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, NABP developed and launched the NABP Passport, a new service that supports member state boards of pharmacy in processing requests for temporary and emergency licensure for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, interns, and pharmacy businesses. NABP has received nearly 8,000 requests for an NABP Passport and issued nearly 52,000 passports. NABP Passport allows those seeking temporary or emergency nonresident licensure to submit state-specific requests for an NABP Passport through their NABP e-Profile. NABP then conducts the necessary license verification and disciplinary history review at no cost to the individual or the boards of pharmacy. To streamline the process for applicants, multiple states can be included in each request; therefore, the number of passports issued is higher than the number of requests.

Pharmacists must have at least one existing license to apply for the Passport, and pharmacy technicians must have a license/registration or hold a certification from the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board or Exam for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians. Interns and pharmacy businesses can also apply for a Passport if allowed by the state in which they are seeking temporary or emergency licensure.

Approved NABP Passports are provided to the state boards of pharmacy for final approval in a secure system, NABP e-Profile Connect. States may opt to recognize the NABP Passport as a temporary license to practice in their state, or as a prerequisite to temporary, emergency licensure. More information, including which states currently recognize the NABP Passport, is available in the NABP Passport section of the NABP website.

- Medication-Assisted Treatment

2020-2021 NABP President Tim Fensky's presidential initiative will focus on medication-assisted treatment (MAT), the use of FDA-approved medications such as buprenorphine and naltrexone, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a "whole-patient" approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. Research has shown that MAT programs can benefit patients; however, lack of education, public stigma, and political barriers have shown to be hurdles to the appropriate access to care by many patients.

The federal SUPPORT Act expands the ability of certain physicians and qualifying other practitioners to treat patients through MAT therapies and, thus, the need for state boards of pharmacy and NABP to become more engaged and provide a clearer pathway for pharmacists to provide MAT through expanded roles of care. This initiative will consist of three primary focus areas:

1. Education of pharmacists in MAT.
2. Interactions with the appropriate federal and state agencies to promote expanded roles for pharmacists to take a lead in MAT, thus greatly increasing access.
3. Providing recommendations and, possibly, language in the NABP *Model Act*, to assist state boards in implementing the expanded role and increased involvement in the individual states.