Joint Commission *of* Pharmacy Practitioners

MEMBER ORGANIZATION UPDATES

ORGANIZATION:
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)
May 10, 2022

- Organization Update:

  - NABP Verify

    In April, NABP launched its new license monitoring service, NABP Verify. This new program serves as an alternative approach to licensure transfer for out-of-state pharmacists practicing remotely in states whose laws recognize this credential. Verify allows United States pharmacists to apply for and easily maintain multiple state-specific credentials using their NABP e-Profile. The program also assists the Association's member boards of pharmacy by reducing the administrative burden of tracking out-of-state pharmacists while they are authorized to practice remotely in their state without maintaining licensure in that state. NABP continues to support its member boards with its highly successful Electronic Licensure Transfer Program® (e-LTP™) for those pharmacists relocating to another state or when licensure is otherwise required by another state.

    Pharmacists who have active licenses that are in good standing can subscribe to Verify and conveniently manage their credentials through their e-Profile by adding or removing participating states as necessary. Pharmacists who subscribe to Verify will receive a digital badge signifying their participation, which enables them to easily share the status of their state-specific credential(s) with employers and regulators.

    Upon launch, North Carolina is the first state to adopt Verify. NABP is in discussions with additional states to implement Verify in the future. Licensure and practice authority granted to a Verify credential holder will continue to be at the sole discretion of the boards of pharmacy, and each state's practice authority will be defined by state-specific statutes, regulations, or policies. Through the program, boards of pharmacy will automatically receive updated licensure status notifications via NABP e-Profile Connect, allowing them to make decisions on licensees' credential statuses.

    Verify can enable new interstate digital practice models while supporting compliance needs. Additional details about the Verify program benefits, eligibility requirements, and implementation can be found by visiting the Programs section on the NABP website.

  - 118th NABP Annual Meeting

    The 118th NABP Annual Meeting will be held in-person at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass in Phoenix, AZ, May 19-21, 2022. The theme of this year's meeting is "Expanding Our Vision to Advance Public Health Protection." To help ensure the safety of

attendees and staff, NABP will require proof of full vaccination, per CDC guidelines, or a negative COVID test to attend the meeting. This year's Keynote Address will be delivered by former US Surgeon General, Dr Jerome Adams. Additionally, attendees may earn up to seven contact hours of continuing pharmacy education credit at the meeting. Sessions will cover issues surrounding opioid use disorder, workplace conditions and pharmacy personnel well-being, expanding pharmacy technicians' scope of practice, and an update on the DSCSA implementation and the NABP DSCSA pilot project. An Educational Poster Session will also take place. During the Final Business Session on May 21, members will elect new officers and members to the NABP Executive Committee and discuss and vote on proposed resolutions.

- Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) State Regulator Pilot Project Update

NABP, working at the direction of its member state boards of pharmacy and other state regulators, undertook an effort to help outline the use cases and explore potential pathways needed for the industry to implement and enforce the November 27, 2023, requirements. This effort included:

1. A series of workshops to inform, assess, and outline the use cases required for all state regulators and the entities they oversee to meet the federal law requirements.
2. An industry-wide tabletop pilot to explore the use cases and identify findings, gaps, and develop a roadmap to implementation.

This tabletop pilot was instrumental in being the first time a significantly broad representation of industry leaders including manufacturers, distributors, dispensers, and state regulators participated and collaborated to explore DSCSA interoperability. This diverse group worked together over several weeks.

The primary goals of NABP's DSCSA efforts are to facilitate the creation of a network to exchange DSCSA-related data such as transaction information of serialized drug products where required by law. The network is expected to:

- Be consistent with the Uniform National Policy (Sec. 585) and FDA Guidance
- Create a uniform request/response standard for state regulators incorporating DSCSA requirements and FDA Guidance
- Create an interoperable framework for state regulator and/or trading partner communication
- Ensure that only authorized regulators can access and make requests of authorized trading partners (ATPs)
- Protect confidential and/or proprietary information of participants
- Focus on the most critical patient safety use cases

Following the workshops and pilot, NABP developed a report to outline the current state of DSCSA compliance within the industry and the proposed steps required to develop an interoperability framework for the industry. This document will be published on NABP's website and proactively shared with state regulators, boards of pharmacy, industry sectors, standards groups, professional trade organizations, solution providers and federal entities to implement and measure DSCSA compliance.

- National Licensing Standards for Wholesale Distributors (WDDs) and Third-Party Logistics Providers (3PLs)

  On February 3, 2022, the FDA published a proposed rule on the National Licensing Standards for Wholesale Distributors and Third-Party Logistics Providers. The proposed rules significantly impact the way that states currently license and regulate WDDs and 3PLs. To assist our member boards, NABP held a webinar to review the FDA's National Licensing Standards for WDDs and 3PLs. In addition to inviting state boards of pharmacy, NABP also included state regulatory entities for WDDs and 3PLs that fall outside NABP's membership.

  During the webinar, NABP staff provided an overview of the proposed rules, highlighted key areas that states should focus on during their review and provided suggestions for how to best convey their concerns and feedback. NABP also provided a "crosswalk" template that states could use to assist in their review. The key theme that emerged during the discussion was the need for additional clarity from the FDA on how they will make determinations about whether a state licensing structure is preempted.

  NABP is working on draft comments, which will focus on the impact on states and the need for clarity on how FDA will make preemption determinations and will also address the impact on NABP operations and drug distributor accreditation. Comments on the proposed rule are due June 6, 2022.

- Meeting with DEA

  On April 13, 2022, NABP leadership met with the DEA to discuss several initiatives impacting practice. These initiatives focused on the following areas: SAMSHA Summit and evaluating state laws to address buprenorphine treatment options, new DEA Red Flags (i.e. – buprenorphine prescribing, combination therapy utilizing buprenorphine and off-label utilization for pain management), Telemedicine and telepharmacy requirements, and counterfeit pills message, "One Pill Can Kill." Additional discussion focused on future collaboration opportunities to inform and educate board of pharmacy staff, members and inspectors on current trends and provide national campaigns focused on counterfeit pills and knowing where your pills come from.

- Opioid Regulatory Collaborative

  In fall 2021, NABP joined with the boards of medicine, nursing, and dentistry to launch the Opioid Regulatory Collaborative (ORC). The new partnership is aimed at addressing the nation's opioid epidemic. By uniting the key health care professions that prescribe and dispense prescription medications, the ORC hopes to bring a new focus to the nation's ongoing efforts to curb opioid misuse.

  The ORC hosted a formal summit meeting March 7-8, 2022, in Washington, DC, themed, *Addressing the Opioid Epidemic Through Regulatory Collaboration*. The summit was attended by representatives of NABP, the American Association of Dental Boards, the Federation of State Medical Boards, and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. During the summit, keynote speakers and panelists discussed current trends, pressing needs, and developments and strategies in the nation's effort to address this public health

crisis. The meeting also included opportunities for attendees from the four sponsoring organizations to network, share ideas, and consider future action steps.