

# NODAK PHARMACY JOURNAL



**REGISTER NOW**

**2024 ANNUAL ND PHARMACY CONVENTION  
APRIL 18-20TH, 2024  
HOLIDAY INN, FARGO ND**

# NDPhA Board of Directors

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HAPPY  
 EASTER

# 2024 Calendar

## March:

**March 21-23:** NASPA Spring Meeting 2024 - Orlando, FL

**March 26:** NDSHP Pharmacy Operations and Leadership - Networking Meeting - Virtual

## April:

**April 9:** NDSHP April Education Meeting - Virtual

**April 18-20:** ND Annual Pharmacy Convention Fargo, ND

**April 23:** NDSHP Acute Care Networking Meeting - Virtual

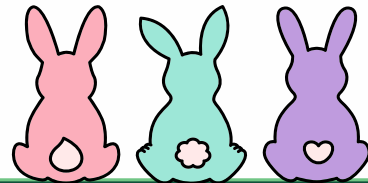
**April 27-30:** NACDS Annual Meeting - Palm Beach, FL

## May:

**May 10:** NDSU PharmD Hooding Ceremony - NDSU Festival Concert Hall

**May 14:** NDSHP May Journaling Club - Virtual

**May 15-17:** National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Annual Meeting - Fort Worth, TX



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians



# NDPhA President's Message

## Happy Spring!

Spring is the season for new growth, reinvigoration, and starting fresh. In pharmacy it means renewing licenses, new legislative policies, meetings, and conferences. It's a busy time of the year and sometimes difficult to make time for everything, especially with family obligations added in the mix. But if you can go to the 139th Annual North Dakota Pharmacy Convention, set for April 18-20th in Fargo, I highly recommend attending.

"But Jamie, isn't that just for members of NDPhA, NAPT, or NDSHP?" No, actually! All pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are encouraged to attend. Even if you are not a member of one of these organizations, it is a great opportunity to learn more about them and become a member if you are interested. But Jamie, isn't the convention just a bunch of meetings?" Well, yes, there are business meetings throughout the weekend, but there are plenty of CE opportunities too!

"Plus, there will be a vendor fair and poster symposium, which is a great way to see what NDSU students and pharmacy residents are researching. I think we know where this is all going, but don't just take my word for it. Ask colleagues who have been to the Convention – it is a great way of not only getting up to date information about what North Dakota pharmacy organizations are doing but also networking with other pharmacists, technicians, and students from across the state. Topics like immunization updates, clinical services billing, roundtable discussions, and an chance to participate in a poverty simulation provide not just CE credits for pharmacists and technicians but also the opportunity to talk to peers from around the state and in different areas of pharmacy.

Hope to see you all at State Convention!

*Jamie Nelson*



# ND Board of Pharmacy Update

## Highlights from the Board

Mark Hardy, Pharm D – Executive Director

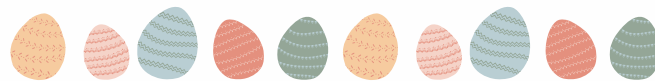
I hope this finds everyone doing well and enjoying a remarkable mild winter. I am looking forward to the NDPhA convention in Fargo to see so many of you. The Convention is such a highlight for the year to reconnect with so many colleagues and enjoy opportunities to learn about new developments and initiatives in the practice of pharmacy. I wanted to highlight a couple updates (which were also published in our email newsletter) that will impact many of you in 2024.

### 2024 Inspection cycle changes

During the Board's January meeting, the Board decided that we will be shifting the inspection cycle to the Spring portion of the year. The reason for this is due to the busyness of many pharmacies during the fall portion of the year and the emphasis for the Board in having a meaningful visit at each pharmacy to address compliance and educational opportunities. The Board will move up the timeline on inspections to open the online inspection portal in mid to late March and begin inspecting pharmacies beginning in April.

The Compliance officers will have the following focuses of the pharmacy inspections:

- The Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)
- USP 797 and 795 standards
- Counseling on prescriptions including an emphasis on warning notices for noncompliance
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) policies



Compliance officers will continue to monitor and ask about how pharmacies are further using the practice advancements made legislatively and through rules changes to further patient care activities in their location. We look forward to the inspection cycle and visiting the pharmacy staff in each of your practices.

### Administrative Rule Changes Implemented January 1, 2024

The North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy finalized rules changes that became effective as of January 1, 2024. The finalized rules can be found on the Board's website at [www.nodakpharmacy.com](http://www.nodakpharmacy.com) The highlights of the rule changes are found below:

- 61-01-01: Updates the contact information of the Board in the administrative code
- 61-02-01-03: Updates the compounding standards to the newest revisions of the USP chapters 795 and 797. Also allows for a pharmacy to obtain compounded medications from an FDA registered outsourcing facility for further dispensing to a patient
- 61-02-07.1: The changes add clarity to the definition of a Pharmacy Technician in Training, and the tasks they are able to perform
  - Changes will allow a technician in training to be the initial filler of a prescription as part of a tech-check-tech process in a pharmacy

# ND Board of Pharmacy Update Cont.

- Similar to pharmacists, the technician (including technician in training) certificate and registration card no longer needs to be displayed and visible to the public. The final version requires the certificate and registration card, or a copy of each, must be readily available or on file. If a pharmacy desires to continue to post the registrations certificates and cards, that will continue to meet the standards.
- The other change would set a maximum reinstatement cost for a pharmacy technician reinstatement whose registration has been lapsed.
- 61-03-01: Changes bring clarity to licensure processes for pharmacists. They also bring similar expectations to posting of license as pharmacy technicians where they must be available or on file at the pharmacy. Language was adjusted to make the reinstatement procedures for a lapsed pharmacist license clearer and more streamlined. The last change involved how an applicant with a Canadian pharmacy license can apply for licensure in the state of North Dakota. The applicant must meet all of the following criteria:
  - Have a pharmacist license in a Canadian Province and be in good standing
  - Applicant must pass the NAPLEX or PEBC (Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada)
  - Complete education requirements from school of pharmacy accredited by PEBC or CCAPP (Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs)
  - Applicant must also have held a license for 1 year in Canada along with 1,500 hours logged as an approved intern or pharmacist
  - Must pass North Dakota Law exam along with paying fees for licensure
- 61-14-10: This rule change allows a pharmacy technician, under the responsibility of the pharmacist, to assist in performing CLIA waived laboratory tests after having met all the education requirements. The responsible pharmacist must still be the one to interpret the results and provide any clinical education to the patient. The requirement of a pharmacy to notify the Board of Pharmacy upon initiation on conducting CLIA waived test was eliminated. The hope is to eliminate any barriers to allow implementation of these important services for your communities and patients.
- 61-04-12: This rule change replaced the use of the word “naloxone” with “opioid antagonist”. This amendment comes from recent FDA drug approval of other opioid antagonists being available on the market. This allows pharmacists prescribing authority to extend to all opioid antagonists which are on the market or will come to market in the future.

Feel free to contact the Board office if you have any questions on the changes detailed above. We appreciate your diligence in reviewing and implementing changes, where appropriate



# NAPT 2024 Scholarship Awards

The NAPT 2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS have been distributed for the year. It is because of the continued support to the NAPT Basket Extraordinaire at our Fall Conference, that our Scholarship Committee is able to award these scholarships to qualifying candidates. This year we were able to award 4 scholarships! Congratulations to Madison Thompson, Kaitlyn Hubrig, Kadence Wiedmeier, and McKenzie Peters from North Dakota State College of Science!



***Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians (NAPT)  
31st Annual Fall Conference  
September 20-21, 2024 @ the Holiday Inn, Bismarck, ND***



# NAPT Executive Board Open Positions

## Greetings from the NAPT Executive Board,

As we near the end of the 2023-2024 term, we are looking for Registered Pharmacy Technicians to join the NAPT Executive Board. Serving on the NAPT Executive Board is a great way to be active and have a voice in the profession within our state. Open positions on the Executive Board for the 2024-2025 term are Vice-President/President Elect, Secretary, and two member-at-large positions. The positions of Vice President/President Elect, and Secretary are voted on by you, our NAPT members. We have a candidate for both elected positions and write-ins are also welcome. I encourage all NAPT members to cast your vote by filling out the ballot and having it in by the April 1st, 2024 deadline. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Board in the capacity of either an appointed position or an elected one, please reach out to any current NAPT Executive Officer or email us at [napt@nodakpharmacy.net](mailto:napt@nodakpharmacy.net).

Remember to watch for email communications and updates via [Facebook!](#)

## Get to know the Executive Board Candidates:

Vice-President/President Elect: Hi, I am Brenda Nitschke, a pharmacy technician at Thrifty White Central Site in Fargo. With Thrifty White's help I was able to take my technician test in 2019. I have worked in many areas at Thrifty White Pharmacy. Currently I work in specialty and our new area, clinical trials. Personally, I thrive on growth and opportunity. There is tremendous value of the techs in the pharmacy. I would like to see the technicians continue to grow & challenge those who choose to stay in the profession and excel.

Secretary: Hi, my name is Olivia Cleveland. I first started my journey as a pharmacy technician back in 2018 as a technician-in-training at the local retail pharmacy. Then in 2020, I was offered a job as an inpatient pharmacy technician at Altru Hospital and have worked here ever since. I've worked my way up to the position of silver technician where I am responsible for mentoring new employees and participating on various improvement committees. I enjoy volunteering at the local dog shelter and at my churches Kids Matter Ministries in my free time and look forward to the difference I can make within the pharmacy world.





# NAPT Executive Board Open Positions



## Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians

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**Ballots must be postmarked by April 1st**

### **VICE President/President Elect:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Name: Brenda Nitschke

\_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Secretary:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Name: Olivia Clevelan

\_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return to:

NDPhA, Attention: NAPT Election, 1641 Capitol Way, Bismarck, ND 58501

Or by email to:

[napt@nodakpharmacy.net](mailto:napt@nodakpharmacy.net)

## Education Completion Certificate versus Certification related to Pharmacy Technician Education and Validation of Knowledge

*Submitted by: NAPT Pharmacy Technician Advancement Committee  
(members include: Amanda Chase, Josie Quick, Brenda Nitschke, and Diane Halvorson)*

North Dakota requirements to practice as a pharmacy technician can be found in the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy Laws and Rules, Chapter 61-02-07.1 (use the QR code for quick access to such rules). Summary of the rules state there are two components needed to apply for registration as a Pharmacy Technician. First, completion of an ASHP/ACPE pharmacy technician education/training program (which could be in classroom, online or on-the-job), this education/training provides a baseline knowledge of pharmacy and the role the pharmacy technician plays. Second component includes passing a pharmacy technician certification exam approved by the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy. Currently, the PTCE (Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam) by PTCB (Pharmacy Technician Certification Board) and the NHA (National Health Association) exam are both recognized by the North Dakota Board of Pharmacy. Once these two requirements are met, the person is ready to apply for registration.

As the pharmacy technician evolves into expanded and/or advanced roles, so does the need for education and validation of competency. The profession is rising to this challenge, while doing so it is important to identify the difference between education and certification. Each avenue positively impacts the validation of the pharmacy technician's knowledge and preparedness for the additional responsibilities.



An important component of this expansion is to ensure the pharmacy profession understands the difference between education and certification and how it contributes to validation of the pharmacy technician.

An education certificate is what a pharmacy technician would receive upon completion of a learning event. Such learning events are available from providers such as: ASHP and CEImpact, just to name a few. It is important when selecting the education provider, to validate it is an ACPE CE provider (if that criterion is needed in your state).

Certification is achieved by first completing the education as outlined above. Once you have your completion of education certificate, you are now qualified to take a competency exam to validate your knowledge in this field. Upon passing the exam you will receive acknowledgement of being credentialed as certified in the specific topic. Currently, PTCB offers certification exams in many different areas including but not limited to: Billing and Reimbursement Certificate, Controlled Substance Diversion Prevention Certificate, Hazardous Drug Management Certificate, Immunization Administration Certificate and several other certificates, all of which tell your employer and the public you have special expertise in those areas.

It is no doubt that the profession will continue to evolve and update the processes specific to utilization of pharmacy technician in the pharmacy, with that growth in pharmacy technician roles, education needs and certification will continue to grow. It is important for the pharmacy technician that is interested in expanding their role that they have an understanding of differences between a certificate of education and be certified in a specific area.



# 2024 NORTH DAKOTA PHARMACY CONVENTION

| FRI & SAT APRIL 19-20 |  
| HOLIDAY INN | FARGO, ND |

## WELCOME SOCIAL

THURSDAY, APRIL 18. 6-8 PM

*NDSU Aldevron Tower*



### PHARMACIST REGISTRATION

Registration Pricing:

Member. \$375

Member Single Day: \$250

Non-Member. \$525

Non-Member Single Day: \$400

### TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION

Registration Pricing:

Member. \$150

Member Single Day: \$90

Non-Member. \$250

Non-Member Single Day: \$200

### STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration Pricing: \$75



Sponsor a student pharmacist today!

*Don't forget to put a gift together for the student scholarship auction!*

Items can be donated by filling out this form or emailing [jjohnson@nodakpharmacy.net](mailto:jjohnson@nodakpharmacy.net)

## FOLLOW THE CONVENTION FACEBOOK PAGE TO BE ENTERED FOR A CUSTOMIZED STANLEY OR A \$50 VISA GIFT CARD

\*\* This page will be utilized for multiple ND Pharmacy conventions! \*\*



# ND Pharmacy Convention Schedule

# FRIDAY



7:30–8:15

**BREAKFAST**

8:00–8:15

**WELCOME**

8:15–9:15

**OPENING BUSINESS SESSION**

9:30–11:45

**PRESCRIPTION FOR POVERTY: BRIDGING THE GAP THROUGH SIMULATION**

UAN: 0107-9999-23-404-L04-P; 0107-9999-23-404-L04-T; 0.2 CEU/2.0 HRS; APPLICATION-BASED

9:30–10:30

**ACT TO REDUCE POLYPHARMACY: PRACTICAL USE OF THE UPDATED BEER'S CRITERIA**

REBECCA BRYNJULSON, PHARM.D, BCGP  
MARK DEWEY, PHARM.D, BCGP

UAN: 0107-9999-23-407-L05-P; 0107-9999-23-407-L05-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; APPLICATION-BASED

10:45–11:45

**ACUTE CARE PEARLS**

MEGAN MOORE, PHARM.D  
LARISSA OSTFELD, PHARM.D  
ASHRAF AMADOU, PHARM.D

UAN: 0107-9999-23-416-L01-P; 0107-9999-23-416-L01-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; KNOWLEDGE-BASED

11:45–1:45

**VENDOR FAIR  
POSTER SYMPOSIUM  
LUNCH**

1:45–4:00

**PHARMACY RESIDENCY RESEARCH SHOWCASE**

FACILITATED BY:  
ELIZABETH MONSON, PHARM.D

UAN: 0107-9999-23-408-L01-P; 0107-9999-23-408-L01-T; 0.2 CEU/2.0 HRS; KNOWLEDGE-BASED

1:45–2:45

**TAKING ACTION ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: A FRAMEWORK AND WORKSHOP**

KYLEE FUNK, PHARM.D

UAN: 0107-9999-23-405-L04-P; 0107-9999-23-405-L04-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; APPLICATION-BASED

2:45–3:00

**TAILGATING REFRESHMENTS**

3:00–4:00

**NAVIGATING THE FUTURE: THE RISE OF PHARMACY CLINICAL SERVICES BILLING**

FACILITATED BY:

BRODY MAACK, PHARM.D, BCACP, CTTS

UAN: 0107-9999-23-406-L04-P; 0107-9999-23-406-L04-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; APPLICATION-BASED

5:00–5:30

**SOCIAL**

5:30–8:00

**AWARDS BANQUET**

8:00–10:00

**ENTERTAINMENT: CASINO NIGHT**

**REGISTER:**



# ND Pharmacy Convention Schedule

# SATURDAY



7:30-8:15

**BREAKFAST**

8:00-9:00

**RECHARGE, RECONNECT, REIMAGINE**

HEIDI EUKEL, PHARM D

LAURA MORRIS, PHARM D

UAN: 0107-9999-23-409-L99-P; 0107-9999-23-409-L99-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; APPLICATION-BASED

**TREAT WEIGHT FIRST: IMPROVING ANTI-OBESITY MEDICATION PRESCRIBING TO MEET THE DEMAND OF THE OBESITY EPIDEMIC**

CODY BAXTER, PA-C

UAN: 0107-9999-23-413-L01-P; 0107-9999-23-413-L01-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; KNOWLEDGE-BASED

9:00-11:30

**THE FUTURE OF PHARMACY: INNOVATION ROUNDTABLES**

FACILITATED BY: ALLISON

HURSMAN, PHARM D, BCGP

UAN: 0107-9999-23-410-L04-P; 0107-9999-23-410-L04-T; 0.2 CEU/2.0 HRS; KNOWLEDGE-BASED

11:30-12:30

**BUSINESS LUNCHESES**

NDPHA - NDSHP - NAFT

12:30-1:30

**IMMUNIZATION UPDATE FOR PHARMACY**

JESSE RUE, PHARM D

UAN: 0107-9999-23-414-L06-P; 0107-9999-23-414-L06-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; KNOWLEDGE-BASED

12:30-1:30

**NATIONAL PHARMACY POLICY AND PRACTICE ADVANCEMENT PRIORITIES**

ANNA DOPP, PHARM D

UAN: 0107-9999-23-411-L03-P; 0107-9999-23-411-L03-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; KNOWLEDGE-BASED

1:45-2:45

**IGNITING ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP ACTIONS IN NORTH DAKOTA**

FACILITATED BY:

EMILY PERRY, PHARM D

UAN: 0107-9999-23-415-L01-P; 0107-9999-23-415-L01-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; KNOWLEDGE-BASED

1:45-2:45

**THE CURIOUS HEALTH GUIDE: WHY MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING IS OFTEN BETTER FOR OUR PATIENTS AND OURSELVES**

JON ULVEN, PH D

UAN: 0107-9999-23-412-L04-P; 0107-9999-23-412-L04-T; 0.1 CEU/1.0 HRS; APPLICATION-BASED

2:45-3:00

**REFRESHMENTS**

3:00-4:30

**CLOSING BUSINESS MEETING**

5:00-5:30

**SOCIAL**

5:00-5:30

**PAST PRESIDENTS SOCIAL**

5:30-8:00

**AWARDS BANQUET**

8:00-10:00

**SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION**

**DONATE:**



# SEE YOU

## NDSU pharmacy faculty recognized by APhA and AACP

By Carol Renner, Office of the Dean, Marketing/Communication Lead, NDSU School of Pharmacy

Professor Elizabeth Skoy in the NDSU School of Pharmacy has been named a fellow of the American Pharmacists Association. Professor Mark Strand in the NDSU School of Pharmacy and the Department of Public Health was recognized with an honorary membership for impacting public health and support of the expanding role of pharmacists.

Dr. Michael Kelsch in the NDSU School of Pharmacy is among the recipients of the Rufus A. Lyman Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for the best research paper published during the previous year. Dr. Jeanne Frenzel was named a 2024 Distinguished Teaching Scholar by AACP, recognizing her excellence in scholarly teaching and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

### Skoy named Fellow

The APhA Fellow Award honors members for “exemplary professional achievements in professional practice and outstanding service to the profession,” according to the association. Skoy is among 10 Fellows recognized by APhA at its Annual Meeting. Skoy began her career in Iowa as a community pharmacist, later became a tenured professor at NDSU and in addition to teaching students, continues as a practicing community pharmacist.

Dr. Skoy’s research interests and areas of expertise include increasing immunization rates, prevention of opioid misuse and accidental overdose, innovation in pharmacy instruction, and pharmacy’s delivery of point-of-care testing. She has contributed to over 40 peer-reviewed journal articles and given over 100 podium presentations.



*Dr. Elizabeth Skoy, NDSU*

# NDSU Article Cont.

APhA Fellows must contribute to the pharmacy profession, be involved in interprofessional education and practice, serve professional associations, provide healthcare advocacy and community service, and serve in APhA through leadership and activities.

At NDSU, Dr. Skoy also serves as the Director of the Center for Collaboration and Advancement in Pharmacy where she assists pharmacists and technicians in advancing the practice of pharmacy. Her goal includes assisting pharmacists and technicians to practice at the highest level to benefit their patients.

## **Strand recognized for public health leadership and support of pharmacy**

Dr. Mark Strand in the NDSU School of Pharmacy and NDSU Department of Public Health was selected to be recognized by APhA as an individual who “has significantly impacted public health or has created or supported the expanding role of pharmacists, the profession, or Association.”

APhA representatives stated that “Strand has elevated the connection between public health and pharmacy within the university, regionally, and nationally.” Professor Strand developed a Public Health for Pharmacists course for third-year pharmacy students at NDSU. Strand’s research approach helps join pharmacy and public health for research that addresses critical public health problems. He serves as an integral team member on the Opioid and Naloxone Education program for North Dakota and is also the senior scientist in the Center for Collaboration and Advancement in Pharmacy at NDSU.

In awarding Strand the honor, APhA representatives noted that he “has broken down the silos in the profession, resulting in dozens of collaborations and peer-reviewed publications, including award-winning research recognized by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and the journal Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy.”

Skoy and Strand will be officially recognized during the APhA Annual Meeting in March.



*Dr. Mark Strand, NDSU*

## Kelsch to receive top AACP research award

Dr. Michael Kelsch is among the recipients of the Rufus A. Lyman Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. He is a co-author of research titled “NAPLEX Preparation Program Characteristics and Resources Associated With First-Time Exam Pass Rates,” published in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education.

The Lyman Award recognizes the best paper published during the previous year. Co-authors with Kelsch include: Diana M. Sobieraj, Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS, of the University of Connecticut; Aleda M.H. Chen, Pharm.D., Ph.D., FAPhA, of Cedarville University; Lisa Lebovitz, J.D., M.S., of the University of Maryland; Sarah A. Spinler, Pharm.D., FAHA, FCCP, FSHP, AACC, of Binghamton University, The State University of New York; and Mary E. Ray, Pharm.D. of the University of Iowa.

Kelsch serves as senior associate dean in the School of Pharmacy at NDSU. These top AACP awards recognize recipients for their outstanding contributions made to pharmacy education, research, patient outcomes, community service and academic publishing.



Dr. Michael Kelsch, NDSU

## Frenzel named Distinguished Teaching Scholar

Dr. Jeanne Frenzel was named a 2024 Distinguished Teaching Scholar, recognizing her excellence in scholarly teaching and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Her areas of expertise include institutional and outpatient pharmacy, performance-based assessment, scholarship of teaching and learning, instructional development and assessment in pharmacy education.

She has published articles in Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning, American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, Journal of Interprofessional Education and Practice, Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, Journal of the American Pharmacists Association, Innovations in Pharmacy, as well as numerous conference proceedings and poster presentations. The recipients of AACP’s awards are at the forefront of healthcare professions education and through their work are advancing pharmacy innovation, enhancing patient care and adding value to the healthcare system, according to the organization.

Kelsch and Frenzel will receive their awards at the AACP Annual Meeting in July.



Dr. Jeanne Frenzel, NDSU



## **NDSU pharmacy students receive national recognition**

*By Carol Renner, Office of the Dean, Marketing/Communication Lead, NDSU School of Pharmacy*

Allison Welsh, fourth-year pharmacy student in the NDSU School of Pharmacy, was selected as one of 66 students from across the U.S. for the inaugural Community Pharmacy Student Scholar Leaders Program, recognizing their dedication to become leaders in community-based pharmacy practice. Taylor Garrett, a PharmD Candidate in the Class of 2026, received a registration grant to attend the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists annual meeting.

## **Welsh participates in leadership program through AACP**

“Through the program, I hope to build upon the leadership skills that I developed during my time at NDSU,” said Allison Welsh, a Langdon, North Dakota native. “I am also excited to network with other pharmacy students across the United States and discuss career development opportunities.” Welsh attends four monthly leadership sessions through April 2024, followed by an immersive virtual workshop across three-and-a-half days in the summer. The program aims to help students develop leadership skills through the process of self-discovery and reflection, create a practice transformation philosophy to guide community-based pharmacy practice, and create their own career development plan. Students will be recognized at the 2024 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting in July in Boston, Massachusetts.

Welsh is scheduled to graduate with her doctor of pharmacy degree in May 2024 and received her MBA in 2023.

“I am planning to pursue a Postgraduate Year 1 (PGY1) residency to expand my clinical knowledge, leadership abilities, and research experience in pharmacy practice,” said Welsh about her plans after graduation.



*Allison Welsh*

## Garrett receives grant for national conference

Pharmacy student Taylor Garrett will use her national grant award to attend the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP) annual meeting in Orlando in April. In addition to their classroom and lab learning, students at NDSU receive opportunities for professional conferences and community options to enhance their pharmacy education.

At the AAP meeting, Garrett will learn more about how to care for patients with mental health and substance use disorders and network with leaders in the field. She also has submitted to present research regarding self-stigma of those with substance use concerns.

Nine PharmD students from 16 colleges of pharmacy received the grants to attend the national conference. Recipients were highly recommended and selected based on the merits of their applications.



Taylor Garrett

### SAFETY TIP

#### A JUST CULTURE LEADS TO A SAFE, POSITIVE CULTURE

Sharing quality lessons learned among your staff leads to improved healthcare outcomes, improved patient safety, and increased reporting.



For more information about the APMS PSO Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program, go to <https://medicationsafety.org> or give APMS a call at (866)365-7472.

### SAFETY TIP

#### FRESH YEAR...TAKE A FRESH LOOK!

Take a fresh look at medication errors. Errors are often attributed to human error, but creating a “just culture” increases the discussion around workflow solutions instead and can help reduce errors in a more productive way!



For more information about the APMS PSO Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program, go to <https://medicationsafety.org> or give APMS a call at (866)365-7472.

# NDSU Student Article

## Access to treatment for opioid-related conditions in North Dakota in 2023

By Isaiah Ratz, P3 PharmD/MPH student at NDSU and ONE Program Graduate Researcher, Heidi Eukel, PharmD, RPh, and Jayme Steig, PharmD, RPh, NDSU School of of Pharmacy

Buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone) and naloxone (Narcan) are effective harm-reduction medications used in the treatment of opioid-related conditions. Having the availability of these medications within community pharmacies and the accessibility of providers to treat individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) within clinics is vital. Due to the rurality of North Dakota, ensuring access to treatment for opioid-related conditions becomes even more important, as transportation barriers may hinder immediate treatment.

Taking this into account, the ONE (Opioid and Naloxone Education) Program researchers at NDSU performed an environmental scan of North Dakota pharmacies and healthcare facilities to investigate and compare the accessibility of care for opioid-related conditions. Research protocols were developed to assess the availability of both aspects, utilizing “secret shopping” telephone techniques. Individual questionnaires were tailored to both sample populations. Results from this environmental scan were then compared to a similar environmental scan completed in 2021 to analyze trends.

Trained researchers called every community pharmacy in North Dakota. The primary outcome was to assess the immediate availability of buprenorphine/naloxone and naloxone products by pharmacy location. Secondary outcomes consisted of assessing the availability of each medication and factors regarding ordering the medication if unavailable (timeframe, willingness to order, etc.). Non-community pharmacies were excluded from the analysis. Further exclusion criteria consisted of an inability to reach the pharmacy after three attempts or a refusal to disclose information over the phone.

Providers were identified through the publicly available SAMHSA Buprenorphine Practitioner Location tool. Trained researchers called all North Dakota locations with providers consenting to be listed on SAMHSA’s tool. The primary outcome was to determine the immediate availability of appointments to be seen for treatment of OUD by healthcare facility location. Secondary outcomes included wait times appointment wait times as well as insurance requirements. Providers were excluded from analysis when they were inaccessible after three attempts or refused to disclose information over the phone.



# NDSU Student Article Cont.

A total of 142 community pharmacies and 13 telepharmacy locations in North Dakota were included in the analysis. Among community pharmacies, roughly 70% had at least one form of buprenorphine/naloxone (brand, generic, or both) available, demonstrating a slight increase in availability when compared to the 2021 rate of 62%. When any form was unavailable, over 87% (92.3% in rural locations) of pharmacies were prepared to order the medication if a patient had a prescription with a median wait time of 1.3 days. Furthermore, nearly 89% of community pharmacies (82.7% rural, 95.5% urban) had naloxone immediately available to dispense, a significant increase from the 2021 rate of 79%. Among included telepharmacies, only 30% had at least one form of buprenorphine/naloxone and a total of over 46% had naloxone available.

A total of 44 provider locations listed among SAMHSA's Buprenorphine Practitioner Location tool were included in the analysis. Among these locations, roughly 80% of providers were accepting new patients, though wait times for appointments varied. Ranging from 0-74 days, the mean wait time for an appointment was 10 days, whereas the median wait time was 5 days. Providers in urban areas had slightly less availability and longer wait times in 2023 when compared to 2021.

Regarding the geographic distribution of opioid-related treatment, there has not been a meaningful change among the pharmacies or providers since 2021. Compared to the 2021 audit, many of the differences noticed were due to variations in the availability of medications for opioid-related conditions among rural pharmacies. The inclusion of telepharmacy locations in the 2023 audit made a slight improvement in the geographic availability of this aspect.

Our audits identified that among the approximately 400 ZIP codes in North Dakota, 47 contained a pharmacy stocking at least one buprenorphine/naloxone product. Furthermore, 26 ZIP codes with a provider location listed on the SAMHSA website were accepting new patients for OUD treatment. Within the ZIP codes containing either a pharmacy stocking a buprenorphine/naloxone product or a provider accepting new patients for OUD treatment, 20 had both a pharmacy and provider within them.

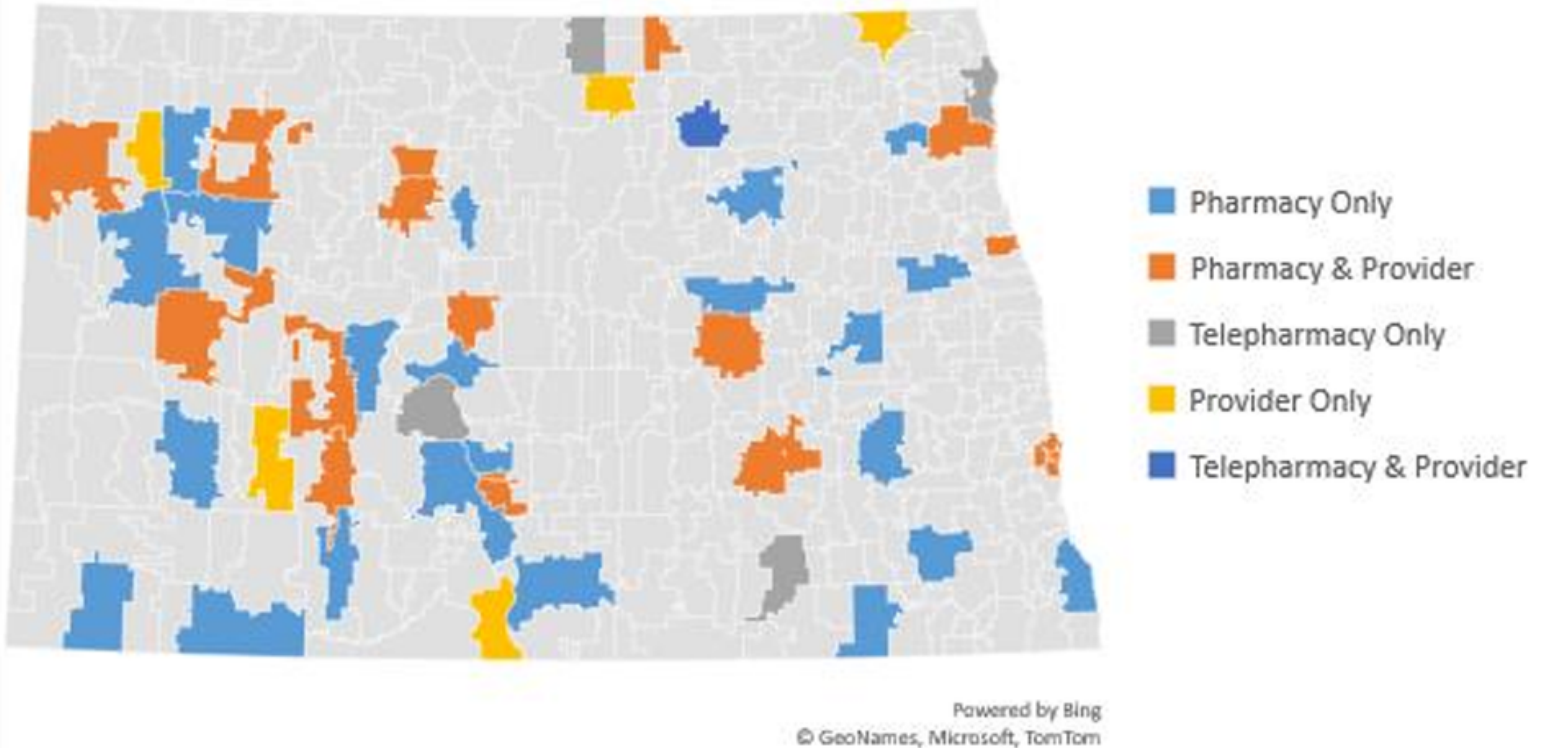
Only 6 ZIP codes contained a provider accepting new patients for OUD treatment but lacked a pharmacy stocking a buprenorphine/naloxone product. However, apart from one ZIP code, all 5 remaining ZIP codes had a pharmacy available in an immediately adjacent ZIP code.

A map providing a visual representation of BUP/NX treatment availability is on the next page (Figure 1).



# NDSU Student Article Cont.

## BUP/NX Treatment Availability



This audit highlights areas for improvement for access to opioid-related treatment within North Dakota. The eastern part of the state has a scarcity of geographically distributed OUD providers, potentially leading to transportation barriers for accessing OUD treatment services. In addition, the southwest and southeast of the state still have a need for OUD providers, whereas the central region of the state has a need for both pharmacy and OUD providers.

Possible solutions to these areas include expanding the telehealth services and increasing collaboration between pharmacies and providers. The ONE Program plans to further investigate opportunities and barriers concerning opioid-related treatment within the state. The impact of the removal of the x-waiver provider status requirement for prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone will also be an area of research. This research provides guidance for public health policy and interventions relating to opioid-related treatment. Overall, results of this environmental scan demonstrate North Dakota's continued progress towards increasing access to care for opioid-related conditions, albeit at a gradual rate.

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## Continuous Quality Improvement: NDSU Students Learn and Practice

*Kinsey Erickson, NDSU PharmD candidate, 2024*

*Heidi Eukel, PharmD, Professor, NDSU*

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is an essential framework within the healthcare domain, particularly in the field of pharmacy. Pharmacists undergo training to identify and correct errors within their professional field, consistently striving for enhancement and refinement in their practice. Currently, regulations in 16 state Boards of Pharmacy across the United States require pharmacies to establish CQI systems. These systems help pharmacies monitor error trends and take proactive steps to reduce risks. North Dakota has paved the way with a standard for the structure and functionality of CQI programs within licensed pharmacies.

The North Dakota Board of Pharmacy has established clear CQI criteria: “Each pharmacy permittee shall establish a CQI program for the purpose of detecting, documenting, assessing, and preventing incidents, near misses, and unsafe conditions.”<sup>2</sup> Compliance requires the adoption of a CQI program to conduct thorough analyses, evaluate findings, identify underlying factors causing errors, and formulate actionable recommendations. These initiatives are aimed at enhancing pharmacy systems and optimizing workflow processes to proactively reduce the likelihood of recurrence and minimize future errors. Guidance suggests CQI as a way to track quality related events (QRE), which include errors that reach the patient but also errors or near-misses that are identified within workflow. Tracking quality related events identified in the data entry or final check steps can help pharmacies to identify trends to prevent errors from occurring.

The NDSU Concept Pharmacy has recently instituted a unique CQI strategy tailored for student engagement through a novel Quality Reporting Error (QRE) form. Brief, just-in-time documentation is completed by the student during the dispensing process when an error is identified. Through the QRE form, students record details of the error including (Figure 1):

- 1.How the error was discovered
- 2.Name and strength of the medication
- 3.Brief description of the error
- 4.Severity level of the incident
- 5.Factors that may have contributed to the incident,
- 6.Future steps the student will take to decrease similar errors from occurring.



# NDSU Student Article Cont.

## NDPhA Concept Pharmacy Quality Related Event Form

Where was QRE discovered?	Medication name and strength	Description of QRE (see below if needed)	Reached the patient? (if yes, severity level)	Contributing Factors (see below if needed)	Future steps to decrease similar errors
<input type="checkbox"/> RPh self-check <input type="checkbox"/> Partner verification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faculty check	lisinopril 20 mg	Rx was written for #60, only #30 on the label and #30 in vial	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / <input type="radio"/> No Level 1	Human related, data entry error, I was rushing	Will double-check my own work prior to having partner check, will not rush through data entry
<input type="checkbox"/> RPh self-check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partner verification <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty check	Advair 250/50	Wrong strength dispensed; written for 250/5 dispensed 500/50	Yes / <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Environmental factors; medication in wrong spot on the self	Will double-check the product I choose from the shelf and have a partner check it too
<input type="checkbox"/> RPh self-check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partner verification <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty check	Ofloxacin ear drops	Wrong medication: chose ofloxacin eye drops instead of ofloxacin ear drops	Yes / <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Product characteristics; look-alike, sound-alike	Will match indication with dosage form on every Rx. Will add warning shelf tag to eye and ear products
<input type="checkbox"/> RPh self-check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partner verification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faculty check	Albuterol inhaler	Wrong day supply calculated	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / <input type="radio"/> No Level 1	Human related, data entry error, miscalculation	I calculated wrong - I forgot to consider they were using TWO puffs every 4-6 hours not just 1 puff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RPh self-check <input type="checkbox"/> Partner verification <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty check	Promethazine suppositories	Misspelled the word "suppository"	Yes / <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Human related, data entry error	I will use sig codes to decrease the risk of misspellings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RPh self-check <input type="checkbox"/> Partner verification <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty check	Triamcinolone cream 0.1%	Correct medication but wrong NDC number	Yes / <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	Human related, data entry error	I will use the barcode scanner and not override any alerts
<input type="checkbox"/> RPh self-check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partner verification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faculty check	RespiMAT inhaler	Wrong quantity; dispensed #1 gm instead of #1 inhaler	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes / <input type="radio"/> No	Human related, data entry error	I will use the barcode scanner instead of inputting my own quantity
<input type="checkbox"/> RPh self-check <input type="checkbox"/> Partner verification <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty check			Yes / <input type="radio"/> No		
<input type="checkbox"/> RPh self-check <input type="checkbox"/> Partner verification <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty check			Yes / <input type="radio"/> No		
Severity Level	Description of QRE (examples)		Contributing Factors (examples)		
Level 0 = Internal, reached patient but didn't leave pharmacy Level 1 = Reached patient, inconvenience Level 2 = Mild anxiety, emotional distress Level 3 = Mild harm, additional monitoring Level 4 = Moderate harm, bodily or psychological Level 5 = Severe harm, bodily or psychological Level 6 = Death	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Missing or inappropriate auxiliary labels <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety cap issue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong date <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong packaging <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong day supply <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong directions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Missing verb/route of administration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong medication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong medication strength	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong NDC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong patient <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong prescriber <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong quantity/amount <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong refill info <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wrong dosage form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spelling error	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental factors/physical space/ lighting/noise/distractions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human related (e.g. calculation errors/ miscount) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Product characteristics (measures, look alike, sound alike, and high-risk nomenclature) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology/equipment or software defects		

Adapted from: © 2015, Alliance for Patient Medication Safety

Figure 1. Student Quality Related Event Form, NDPhA Concept Pharmacy

This proactive approach in the NDPhA Concept Pharmacy highlights the commitment to continuous quality improvement and a culture of safety. The QRE form was adapted with permission from PQC+, a CQI program available to pharmacies with tools and resources for tracking and learning from medication errors or near misses. Almost 90% of quality-related events documented are identified within the data entry or final check phases of workflow.

Through dispensing and consultation activities in the NDPhA Concept Pharmacy, first-year PharmD students are provided with many opportunities for error identification, error communication and correction, critical thinking, drug utilization review, and reflection. Jenna Gorder, first year PharmD student, stated "It is a great place to keep all of my errors in one spot and provides a good refresher when continuing to work in lab to prevent myself from making the same errors again. It is also helpful to compare with my peers and see what mistakes they have made so we can discuss them."

# NDSU Article Student Article Cont.

The use of the QRE program is in accordance with the Board of Pharmacy statutes. The data collected on errors and near misses is reviewed by both students and faculty to check for patterns in errors. First year PharmD student Landon Woinarowicz stated, “The error reporting form has proved to be an imperative factor in my education of dispensing medication. Not only does it create an environment that is less stressful and more conducive, but it also conveys the skills and knowledge to report an error.” Within NDSU's Concept Pharmacy, the focus is on fostering a supportive learning environment where students can learn from mistakes using simulated patient profiles and medication scenarios.

1. Hincapie, A. L., Alyami, F., Alrasheed, M., Hegener, M., Beaton, C., O'Brien, L., & MacKinnon, N. J. (2021). Continuous quality improvement regulations for community pharmacy practice in the United States. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association : JAPhA*, 61(4), 470–475.e2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japh.2021.02.008>

2. North Dakota Board of Pharmacy Statutes. Chapter 61-02-01-19: Continuous Quality Improvement. <https://www.nodakpharmacy.com/pdfs/61-02-01-19ContinuousQualityImprovement.pdf>





# 2023 Recipients of the “Bowl of Hygeia” Award



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Alaska



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Denise Clayton  
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Elizabeth Ryan  
Delaware



William Garst  
Florida



Ben Flanagan  
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Wendy Kinne  
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Maine



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Massachusetts



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Samantha Marie Strong  
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The Bowl of Hygeia award program was originally developed by the A. H. Robins Company to recognize pharmacists across the nation for outstanding service to their communities. Selected through their respective professional pharmacy associations, each of these dedicated individuals has made uniquely personal contributions to a strong, healthy community. We offer our congratulations and thanks for their high example. The American Pharmacists Association Foundation, the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations and the state pharmacy associations have assumed responsibility for continuing this prestigious recognition program. All former recipients are encouraged to maintain their linkage to the Bowl of Hygeia by emailing current contact information to [awards@naspa.us](mailto:awards@naspa.us). The Bowl of Hygeia is on display in the APhA History Hall located in Washington, DC.



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## Law Enforcement Access to Protected Health Information – What’s Your Policy?

Understanding and adhering to the HIPAA Privacy Rule is required for covered entities who handle protected health information (PHI), but because the Privacy Rule was designed to be flexible, implementation of policies and procedures to meet the Privacy Rules can vary from covered entity to covered entity. Look no further than the December 12, 2023 [letter](#)<sup>1</sup> from the United States Senate Committee on Finance (herein, “The Committee”) for evidence of this variation and how it can seriously impact the privacy of sensitive patient data.

In the December letter drafted to Xavier Becerra, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, The Committee outlined the results of their oversight inquiry into the seven largest pharmacy chains (CVS Health, Walgreens Boots Alliance, Cigna, Optum Rx, Walmart Stores, Inc., The Kroger Company, and Rite Aid Corporation), and Amazon Pharmacy. The inquiry focused on obtaining briefings from the major pharmacy chains about their policies and procedures for releasing PHI to law enforcement agencies. Below is a general overview of the findings:

- Five pharmacy corporations had policies that would require a law enforcement agency’s demand for PHI to be reviewed by legal professionals before responding
- The remaining three pharmacy corporations had policies that put “*extreme pressure*” on the pharmacy staff to respond to the inquiries immediately and stated their pharmacy staff “*are trained to respond to such requests and can contact the legal department if they have questions*”
- None of the pharmacy corporations required warrants to share information with law enforcement agencies, unless required by state law
- Pharmacies would turn over PHI to a law enforcement agency when presented with a subpoena (“*which often do not have to be reviewed or signed by a judge prior to being issued*”)
- Only CVS Health published annual transparency reports on the records requests from law enforcement
- Patients already have the right to know who is accessing their health information through the HIPAA Accounting of Disclosure process, but the obligation is on the patient or their authorized representative to request the appropriate information from the covered entity; since this patient right is not well known in the general patient population it leads to a very small number of disclosure requests annually

The Committee urged the Secretary to strengthen HIPAA Privacy regulations to better protect PHI, and referenced a 2010 [decision](#)<sup>2</sup> from the Federal Court of Appeals which protected the privacy of emails and would require a warrant before providers such as Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft could release customer data.

What does this mean for independent pharmacies? As stated in The Committee’s letter, “*These findings underscore that not only are there real differences in how pharmacies approach patient privacy at the pharmacy counter, but these differences are not visible to the American people.*” Also, “*Proactively notifying customers about any patient record disclosures to law enforcement that impact their medical records, except where prohibited by a non-disclosure or “gag” order issued by a judge, would be a major step forward in patient transparency.*”

### PAAS Tips:

- Ensure your pharmacy has a written policy and procedure detailing the actions to take if presented with a demand for PHI from a law enforcement agency
- All documentation related to HIPAA practices must be maintained for a minimum of six years after the last effective date

PAAS National® is committed to serving community pharmacies and helping keep hard-earned money where it belongs. Contact PAAS today at (608) 873-1342 or [info@paasnational.com](mailto:info@paasnational.com) to see why PAAS’ FWA/HIPAA Compliance Program membership might be right for you.

**By Trenton Thiede, PharmD, MBA, President at PAAS National®, expert third party audit assistance, FWA/HIPAA and USP 800 compliance.**

### References:

1. <https://www.finance.senate.gov/chairmans-news/wyden-jayapal-and-jacobs-inquiry-finds-pharmacies-fail-to-protect-the-privacy-of-americans-medical-records-hhs-must-update-health-privacy-rules>

2. <https://casetext.com/case/us-v-warshak-27>

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(These funds are used entirely to provide scholarships to NDSU School of Pharmacy Students. Personal or Corporate Checks are accepted)

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