



California's State of Emergency Prompts Pharmacy Waivers From State Board of Pharmacy

From NABP <news@nabp.pharmacy>

Date Wed 1/22/2025 7:44 PM

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NABP WEEKLY

*Educational, Regulatory,
and Association News*



NABP Featured in Advancing Technology in Pharmacy Regulation to Keep Patients Safe Documentary

Technology has given consumers an easy way to buy medications; however, not every online pharmacy sells authentic medications. The recently released *Advancing Technology in Pharmacy Regulation to Keep Patients Safe* documentary delves into NABP's role in educating consumers on the safe purchase, consumption, and disposal of medications. Building on its efforts to educate consumers about medication safety, NABP also supports advancing the use of technology in the pharmacy field to protect public health, while still assessing the regulatory scope needed to ensure its safe and effective implementation.

[Watch the Documentary](#)

Partnership for DSCSA Governance and FDA Announce Three Town Halls on Implementation Progress

In 2025, the Partnership for DSCSA Governance and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be hosting three virtual town hall meetings on the Drug Supply Chain Security Act's (DSCSA's) implementation progress. The town hall meetings are scheduled two months before the exemption period ends for each trading partner group:

- On March 26, 2025, from 1-3 PM EDT, *2025 PDG-FDA Town Hall- Manufacturer Exemption*;
- On June 25, 2025, from 1-3 PM EDT, *2025 PDG-FDA Town Hall- Wholesale Distributor Exemption*; and
- On September 24, 2025, from 1-3 PM EDT, *2025 PDG-FDA Town Hall- Dispenser Exemption*.

Individuals are asked to fill out the registration form for each town hall meeting they would like to attend. Those requesting to speak during the town hall will need to indicate their interest on the registration form 10 days in advance of the meeting.

[Register for the Town Hall Meetings](#)

California State Board of Pharmacy Issues Waivers to Ensure Continued Medication Access During State of Emergency

As Governor Gavin Newsom declared a [State of Emergency for California](#), the California State Board of Pharmacy issued [waivers](#) related to staffing ratios, remote processing, and delivering of dangerous drugs so patients can continue to have access to necessary medications. One of the waivers, for example, allows a pharmacist to supervise one additional pharmacy technician under certain conditions. The waiver for remote processing enables pharmacy personnel to complete functions from outside of a licensed pharmacy, such as order entry and other data entry, and perform prospective drug utilization review; however, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns will all need to comply with the waiver's conditions. The waiver concerning the delivery of dangerous drugs allows manufacturers, wholesalers, or third-party logistics providers to directly, or by a carrier, deliver dangerous drugs and devices to a different location, provided they adhere to the conditions outlined in the waiver.

Individuals affected by the California wildfires may be eligible to sign up for the [Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response's Emergency Prescription Assistance Program](#). Under this federal program, pharmacies are required to dispense generic forms of medication, unless designated by the licensed health care practitioner. Eligible patients can receive prescription medications, medical supplies, equipment, and vaccines at no cost.

[Read More](#)

DEA Issues Three New Rules About Prescribing Medications via Telemedicine

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has issued three rules addressing how to prescribe medication via telemedicine:

- **Continuity of Care via Telemedicine for Veterans Affairs Patients:** Beginning February 18, 2025, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) practitioners, within the scope of their employment, will be permitted to prescribe controlled substances (CS) via telemedicine to VA patients for whom they did not conduct an in-person medical evaluation.
- **Expansion of Buprenorphine Treatment via Telemedicine Encounter:** Following a practitioner's review of the patient's prescription drug monitoring program data for the state in which the patient is located during the telemedicine visit, a practitioner is allowed to prescribe an initial six-month supply of Schedule III-V medications ("split amongst several prescriptions totaling six calendar months") through audio-only communication. This rule goes into effect February 18, 2025.
- **Special Registrations for Telemedicine and Limited State Telemedicine Registrations:** This rule establishes three types of Special Registrations for prescribing CS: Telemedicine Prescribing Registration, Advanced Telemedicine Prescribing Registration, and Telemedicine Platform Registration. DEA is encouraging individuals to submit comments concerning this rule by March 18, 2025.

[Find Out More](#)

CDC Reports High Levels of Respiratory Illness Activity Across US

As of January 17, 2025, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported high levels of respiratory illnesses across the country. According to CDC's Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel, the number of people seeking emergency medical attention for respiratory syncytial virus and influenza is high and continues to increase. The number of emergency department visits due to COVID-19 is currently low but is also increasing. CDC encourages individuals to protect themselves and their communities from respiratory illnesses by reviewing the agency's [Respiratory Virus Guidance](#).

[Search Respiratory Illness Activity in Your Community](#)

HHS' 'Let's Get Real' Campaign Encourages the 'Act, Recommend,

Motivate' Approach for Health Care Providers

The United States Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS') "**Let's Get Real**" campaign strives to deliver balanced information about childhood vaccinations with the help of health care providers. According to HHS, a majority of parents rely on their health care providers for vaccine information; therefore, health care providers are in a unique position to engage and educate hesitant parents about vaccinations. HHS recommends applying the "Act, Recommend, Motivate" approach, in which health care professionals use a presumptive "act now" approach when a patient comes to their office, sharing personal stories about vaccinations and responding to patient questions with patience, empathy, and respect.

[Browse the Campaign's Web Page](#)

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