

S O U T H D A K O T A P H A R M A C I S T



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- Finish the Fight: PBM News and Resources

SUMMER EDITION 2024

Our mission is to promote, serve and protect the pharmacy profession.

South Dakota Pharmacists Association

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JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 5 SDPhA Office Closed
- 20–23 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting
Boston, MA
- 23 Interim Rules Review Committee
Room 414, SD State Capitol, Pierre | 10 am
- 24 22nd Annual GVR Society Open Golf Classic
Hartfold, SD

AUGUST

- 17–19 NACDS Total Store Expo
Boston, MA
- 20 Interim Rules Review Committee
Room 414, SD State Capitol, Pierre | 10 am

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day
- 10 Interim Rules Review Committee
Room 414, SD State Capitol, Pierre | 10 am
- 12 South Dakota Board of Pharmacy Meeting
Brookings, SD | 1 pm
- 13–14 South Dakota Pharmacists Association
138th Annual Convention
Brookings, SD

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Director's COMMENTS

Amanda Bacon // SDPHA Executive Director



Summer technically just started days ago – a season typically associated with relaxation. However here in the association office – Summer has been full of about everything except for rest. I know both professionally and personally, many of you can thoroughly relate!

This summer finds me, and our Board of Directors deeply engrossed in critical projects

and strategic planning sessions. We're doing a lot of introspection these days. It's a pivotal moment in the 138-year life of the association. How we meet that moment will define much about the future of the pharmacy profession in South Dakota.

While we work to figure out the best way to meet this moment – which is a full-time job in and of itself, the everyday work of the association must also continue.

Spring District Meetings

Most of our districts have wrapped up their Spring District Meetings. We were thrilled to see such strong turnout in several districts this year. The Spring meeting is the most important meeting of the year for districts, as the Fall meeting is optional. A few districts had some leadership changes – you can find those on the SDPHA website. Election of officers is just one of the important items district members addressed. Districts also made nominations for the state association board of directors, as well as recognition and nomination of worthy pharmacists, sales reps, and technicians to be considered by the Executive Board for the awards presented at our annual meeting.

SDPHA Board Retreat

Given the current financial situation, it was with much thoughtfulness and careful consideration that the SDPHA board of directors decided to move forward and hold its

annual retreat June 7-8. Had we cancelled, even as early as this past December, we would have lost half of the event cost. We always work very hard to be fiscally responsible. We also knew this meeting was very important to tackle some of the association's biggest tasks; most importantly – strategic planning, budgeting and legislative goals for the coming year. We also ironed out continuing education opportunities and agenda items for the annual meeting and convention, and selection of annual award winners.

SDPHA Annual Meeting | Sept. 13-14

The 138th annual meeting of the South Dakota Pharmacists Association will be held Sept. 13-14 in Brookings, SD. Early bird registration is OPEN on the website. We'll have the full schedule online and here in the Journal – you won't want to miss it! We've listened carefully to your feedback and what you want to learn about for CE courses, and we also have some very important things to discuss about the future of the Association. We're also working hard to bring you more time for networking and just visiting with your colleagues. Fitting that all in our relatively tight timeframe is tricky! Of course, our annual awards luncheon will continue to take center stage, and we're working on the idea of working in some Jackrabbit football, too.

Interim Rules Review

We were pleased to have the opportunity to work together with the Board of Pharmacy and other stakeholders to bring clarity to some of the proposed rules at the public hearing April 12. We appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback, and we greatly appreciated the board's willingness to respond to many of the issues we raised in our written and verbal comments. We were glad to broadly support the rules package at the May 7 Interim Rules Committee hearing in Pierre. We did express our continued concern with the increase being proposed in 20:51:14:01 – the increase in the annual certification renewal fee for pharmacists from \$125 to \$150. We asked this rule to be reverted to a prior step, as we continued to have concerns with increasing this fee given the recent denial of funding

for services provided by SDPHA. While we recognize the financial position the Board finds itself in, we are concerned over any effort to shift the burden to fund this shortfall to pharmacists through both elimination of their funding and an increase to their fees.

Drug Shortage Task Force Summit

SDPHA recently attended the South Dakota Department of Health's Drug Shortage Summit. This summit is part of the work the Department of Health is doing to analyze the state's drug shortage situation. The state has partnered with ASHP Consulting to complete an assessment of the vulnerability of the hazard of drug shortages and recommend best management practices to mitigate risk to the citizens of South Dakota. This project is in response to the Governor's [Executive Order 2023-07](#). Executive Director Amanda Bacon, Jessica Strobl, SDPHA President, and Sarah Andersen, SDPHA At-Large Member continue to participate on the steering committee.

HB 1135 In Action

With HB 1135 now the law for a full year in South Dakota, our focus for now is on assessing how it works in practical application for regulating Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). The South Dakota Division of Insurance has hired an investigator and a pharmacist but remember – even though we're a year in – there's still a lot of learning going on.

We remain committed to taking the time to work through any issues that arise with the process as we go. In the months that followed HB 1135 becoming law, SDPHA went to work with the South Dakota Division of Insurance (SD DOI) on the process and procedure for filing complaints and violations of the new law. We thank the DOI for bringing us to the table early and often in this process. We worked with them to create an intake form that is simple and direct, yet comprehensive.

One very important note – it is incumbent upon us to report issues and they occur and provide the proper documentation regarding. Complaints need to be reported

IN WRITING via the form. A phone call to the DOI is not going to initiate the process. You can find a link to the complaint form, and a host of other resources on our new webpage devoted exclusively to [PBM and Payer Resources](#).

As a reminder, here are the highlights of the bill:

- **Prohibit direct or indirect retroactive claim adjustments** unless it's the result of a technical billing error, audit, fraudulent or duplicate claim. (Section 13)
- **Prohibit the numerous onerous fees** PBMs charge pharmacies. (Section 14)
- **MAC list regulation** to help ensure pharmacies are paid fairly and transparently. (Sections 15-16)
- **Prohibit a PBM from reimbursing its own pharmacies more** than it does other resident South Dakota pharmacies (Section 17)
- **Strengthens gag clause prohibition** (Section 10)

In addition, the bill strengthens audit (Section 4, 7) and reporting (Section 18) requirements for PBMs (including identifying all instances of spread spicing) and establishes the conditions under which the Division of Insurance may suspend, revoke, or deny a PBM's license (Section 19).

SDPHA General and Commercial and Legislative Branch Funds

As most of you know, we continue all this work while also working through major changes for the Association, and figuring out what can, and should be, our next right thing.

For those who are just learning about our situation, here's what's happened - and it's really important to know this entire set of circumstances hasn't been easy for anyone involved at the Board of Pharmacy or the Association. At the December 2023 Board of Pharmacy meeting, the board voted to rescind their vote from June 2023 to send SDPHA the 80% of the pharmacist renewal fees as per [SDCL 36-11-6](#). The BOP finds itself in financial difficulty, and this is also now where we find the Association as a result.

Director's COMMENTS

(continued)

This matter came up again at the June 2024 meeting for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. The SD BOP tabled the vote while they work to gain greater clarity around their current financial situation.

SDPhA always operates somewhat in the rears given that our fiscal year runs July 1- June 30, and we wait to send the invoice for the fees for the above referenced June vote until after the October license renewal window closes. That means by the time the SD BOP voted to rescind the June vote in 2023, we were effectively 6 months into our FY, operating as normal. **As of this report, we have operated completely on reserves for one full fiscal year and are moving into our second fiscal year of the same. We've worked diligently to cut costs where we can while dealing with the reality that there wasn't much to cut in the first place.**

Funds that come to SDPhA through the mechanism outlined in SDCL 36-11-6 go into the SDPhA General fund and are used in accordance with our obligations as outlined in that statute. Primarily this includes day-to-day operations, continuing education, funding the Health Professionals Assistance Program (HPAP) and other initiatives that advance patient care, enhance public awareness, and serve in the best interest of public health and pharmacy.

These funds are not to be used for lobbying, which is why we maintain a separate Commercial and Legislative Fund. That fund sustains the lobbying arm of SDPhA. The reality is, to ensure the profession has a seat at the table, first and foremost, the Association needs the funds in the general fund to even exist. (While we have some reserves, like you, SDPhA can't operate without its main source of income for very long.) Second, we must have the funds in the C&L Fund to pay for the chair.

We appreciate the BOP's efforts to work toward solutions for their immediate needs – we need a fiscally solvent Board of Pharmacy. We also continue to do what we can

to raise funds on our end and hope to find a resolution that allows SDPhA to continue the good work the legislature has tasked us to do.

So while we work through all this, we also know there's never been a more pivotal time for the profession in terms of regulatory and legislative issues. There's the never-ending issue with PBMs and 340b. There are constant attacks on health care, and this profession (remember last year's mandatory dispensing bill?). Those issues impact each and every pharmacist - hospital or retail. There's also a strong push for practice act updates - and a lot of conversation about a standard of care regulatory model for pharmacists. They are HUGE undertakings and multi-year efforts.

But the reality is, for SDPhA to continue on with its mission as outlined in statute, let alone protect the profession or move forward with the above-referenced initiatives - first and foremost, we have to be here. We must keep the lights on, and the doors open. Without SDPhA - pharmacists have no representation, and no seat at the table. We can't protect the profession, let alone advance it if we don't exist.

While the SDPhA board moves forward with fundraising (please see President Strobl's article on page 8), we NEED every pharmacist to get involved. In every practice area. We need you to step up, and stand up. Come to the convention. Bring a friend. Read the emails and stay in touch with us. Please contribute to the C&L Fund in any way that you can. You can [contribute online](#), or send a check made out to the SDPhA C&L Branch, PO Box 518, Pierre, SD 57501.

Our job, as President- Elect Andy Tonneson said at our board retreat, is to survive and advance. This is game seven. Win or go home. We are determined, for our colleagues and our profession – to win. There's no other choice. But we need everyone off the bench, and in the game to get it done.

Respectfully,

AMANDA BACON

NCPA[®]
NATIONAL COMMUNITY
PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION



FINISH THE FIGHT

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (June 13, 2024) – The National Community Pharmacists Association today launched an all-out push for payment reform that educates patients on how pharmacy benefit managers are increasing prescription drug prices. The national campaign, featuring television, digital and print ads, aims to push Congress to enact PBM payment reform that has broad bipartisan support in both houses.

As part of the launch, NCPA also released [the results of a new poll revealing widespread public concern over prescription drug costs and PBMs](#):

- 84% of respondents agree that prescription drug costs are too high.
- 73% are concerned about PBMs' impact on drug pricing.
- 68% agree that PBMs are driving up drug costs.
- 60% would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported legislation addressing PBM abuses.
- 62% support Congress having some oversight into the practices of PBMs to ensure fair pricing and transparency.

The campaign will target patients across the country with educational material explaining how PBMs make billions of dollars in profits by driving up the cost of prescriptions and putting local pharmacies out of business.

"Eighty percent of all prescriptions in the U.S. are controlled by just three pharmacy benefit managers, and they are all owned by or affiliated with the largest insurance companies in the country," said NCPA CEO B. Douglas Hoey, pharmacist, MBA. "These are Fortune 15 corporations that behave like monopolies, and they are hurting patients with higher prescription costs and killing off small businesses at the average rate of one every day. There is broad bipartisan support in Congress for reform, and we are determined to get it passed before the end of the year.

"As the national poll shows, most patients don't know very much about PBMs, despite that they have so much control over which prescription patients take and how much they pay for those drugs. So, while we want pharmacy teams to continue their advocacy, this campaign is aimed at patients. We want them to let their members of Congress know that PBM reforms must be enacted this year."

NCPA's new TV ad, PBM Leeches, is running in the Washington, D.C. market. [Click here](#) to watch. Its "Finish the Fight" digital ads also expose [PBM Fat Cats](#).

More information about the campaign, including links to digital, print and television ads, is [available here](#).

###

Founded in 1898, the National Community Pharmacists Association is the voice for the community pharmacist, representing over 19,400 pharmacies that employ more than 230,000 individuals nationwide. Community pharmacies are rooted in the communities where they are located and are among America's most accessible health care providers. To learn more, visit www.ncpa.org.



Additional PBM News and Resources: A bipartisan group of 32 attorneys general, including South Dakota's Marty Jackley is [urging](#) the Supreme Court to grant them more regulatory power over pharmacy benefit managers.

President's PERSPECTIVE

Jessica Strobl, PharmD // SDPhA Board President



Giving is shown to release 'feel good' chemicals in our brains, such as serotonin, dopamine, and oxytocin. This release of endorphins produces the feeling known as the 'helper's high'.

"No one has ever become poor from giving." – Anne Frank

It feels like summer is winding down already. How is that

possible?!?! I hope you have all been able to use this time of year for some much-needed "downtime" and extra time with family and friends. The SDPhA board has not had much time to sit still as we plan for our next fiscal year. We had a difficult annual board retreat to work through our next steps to building a sustainable funding mechanism. We are working on getting our annual convention planned for September 13-14 in Brookings – registration is open on the website. [You can get in on the early bird rate by registering here!](#) We continue to advocate on both the state and national level for the multitude of pressing issues facing every practice site of our profession.



I'm sure many of you are anxiously awaiting the announcement of our plans for what's next to keep the SDPhA doors open. This will likely eventually include a paid membership structure, but unfortunately, implementing something new is not as simple as it might initially seem. If it were as easy as saying, "Everyone send us a chunk of change and we will take it from here," we would have it done already. There's a lot of different ways to go from here. What further complicates the issue is fully understanding HOW we can appropriately move forward with the idea of a membership structure change. Our association and membership are currently set forward in statute. SDCL 36-11-3 and 36-11-6 essentially mean that when you renew your license, you are an SDPhA member. Which means we need to take care to move forward with a process that doesn't put us in conflict with current statute.

So as SDPhA continues to work through our best steps forward with a new funding mechanism please know that **the best way you can help is to contribute to the C&L Fund**. This truly is our most pressing issue, even despite the funding issue we are currently facing. We need this fund not only to fund the lobbying arm of our association, but also to pay our legal team to help us understand how we are allowed to move forward with our funding mechanisms. What do you think a fair annual membership fee would be? Whatever that amount is **PLEASE** hop online and contribute that amount to the C&L fund today.

Did you know that giving, volunteering, helping, and donating are shown to release 'feel good' chemicals in our brains, such as serotonin, dopamine, and oxytocin? This release of endorphins produces the feeling known as the 'helper's high'. We can all use those endorphins right now!

You are probably asking yourself, what can I do to boost my mood and get the "Helper's High" today?

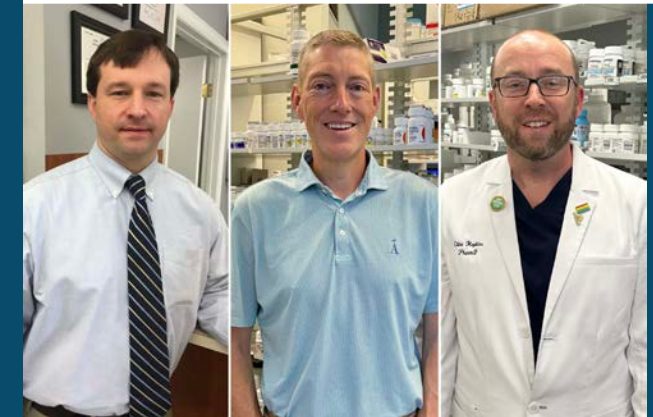
1. Ask yourself, "What can I do to help SDPhA and my profession today?"
2. Go to: www.sdpha.org/member-center/commercial-legislative-contributions-district-dues
3. Enter your information
4. Click on Individual Membership
5. Click "Other" for the amount
6. Enter and donate the amount that YOU think being a member of SDPhA is worth to you this fiscal year
7. Enter your credit card information and hit submit
8. Sit back and enjoy the "Helper's High" feeling a huge sense of accomplishment knowing that you took it upon yourself to help in the most meaningful way possible at this time.
9. Block off your calendar for September 13-14 so we can extend a THANK YOU in person at our annual convention in Brookings.
10. Share this To Do List with colleagues and share the gift of the "Helper's High"

If you have any questions at all, or any fun, new ideas to help raise funds for the Commercial and Legislative branch, you can reach out to me, or any member of the SDPhA board of Directors. We've had some great ideas already roll in through our district meetings and individual conversations. Keep them coming – momentum builds momentum, and we need all of it to ensure this time in the history of SDPhA is just a bump in the road, and not the end of the road.

See you in Brookings!

JESSICA STROBL

KFF Health News



Plan to Save Medicare Patients Money on Drugs Risks Empty Shelves

Independent pharmacists report that months into a policy changing prescription prices for Medicare patients, they are struggling to afford to keep some prescription drugs in stock. The problem is cash flow, according to pharmacists. Under the old system, pharmacies and PBMs reconciled rebates and other behind-the-scenes transactions a few times a year, resulting in pharmacies refunding any overpayments. Now, PBM clawbacks happen immediately, with every filled prescription, reducing pharmacies' cash on hand.

– From APhA and KFF Health News

2023/2024 COMMERCIAL & LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT DUES CONTRIBUTIONS

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ MOBILE PHONE _____

EMPLOYER / COMPANY _____

WORK ADDRESS _____

WORK CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

WORK PHONE _____ WORK FAX _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Do you wish to receive SDPhA email alerts regarding important pharmacy issues? YES NO

COMMERCIAL & LEGISLATIVE FUND *Memberships set by SDPhA C & L Executive Committee, 2007*

PHARMACY OR BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP \$500.00 *Includes One Individual Membership*

NAME OF PHARMACY / BUSINESS _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL INCLUDED _____

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP \$1,000.00 *Two or more stores of the same corporation*

NAME OF CORPORATION _____

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL INCLUDED _____

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$100 LEVEL \$200 LEVEL OTHER \$ _____

DISTRICT DUES *Circle your District*

ABERDEEN – \$20.00 BLACK HILLS – \$20.00 HURON – \$10.00 MITCHELL – \$10.00 MOBRIDGE – \$10.00

ROSEBUD – \$10.00 SIOUX FALLS – \$20.00 WATERTOWN – \$20.00 YANKTON – \$15.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAIL TO: SD PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION, BOX 518, PIERRE, SD 57501-0518 / FAX: 605-224-1280

PBM AND PAYER RESOURCES

[Home](#) / [Resources](#) / PBM and Payer Resources

PBM RESOURCES

[PBM Enforcement](#)

[PBM Complaint Form](#)

ADDITIONAL PAYER RESOURCES

[South Dakota Medicaid](#)

[Medicaid Provider Enrollment](#)

PBM REFORM IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Pharmacists Association advocates for meaningful pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reform that benefits patients and pharmacies together. SDPhA supports efforts in PBM oversight on the federal and state level. We work closely with our South Dakota Congressional Delegation, the South Dakota Legislature, the South Dakota Division of Insurance and other stakeholders to ensure adequate payment and meaningful reform.

References to current SD law for PBMs are linked on right. Should you know of any PBM in violation of this code, we encourage you to file a complaint (link left and below) with the South Dakota Division of Insurance to help enforce law for which we advocated.

TIPS FOR FILING COMPLAINTS:

- A phone call doesn't do it. You must fill out the complaint form.
- Include a clear and concise description of the non-compliance (i.e., state law prohibits clawbacks and PBMs continue to clawback funds after the point of sale).
- Cite the specific state statute (list on the right).
- Include records/claim/other evidence of the PBMs' violations.
- Include all other information required by the state's complaint form.
- Quantity is important, but quality is too - please make sure you have all the necessary documentation for each complaint.

[PBM Complaint Form](#)

SOUTH DAKOTA PBM REGULATIONS

PBM licensure/registration requirement

[S.D. Laws 58-29E-2](#)

Prohibition against retroactive claim adjustments

[S.D. Laws 58-29E-13](#)

Prohibition against adjudication fees

[S.D. Laws 58-29E-16](#)

Fair pharmacy audit procedures

[S.D. Laws 58-29F](#)

Prohibition against anti-mandatory mail-order

[S.D. Laws 58-18-37](#)

Any Willing Pharmacy

[S.D. Laws 58-18-37](#)

Not less reimbursement than PBM-owned pharmacies

[S.D. Laws 58-29E-19](#)

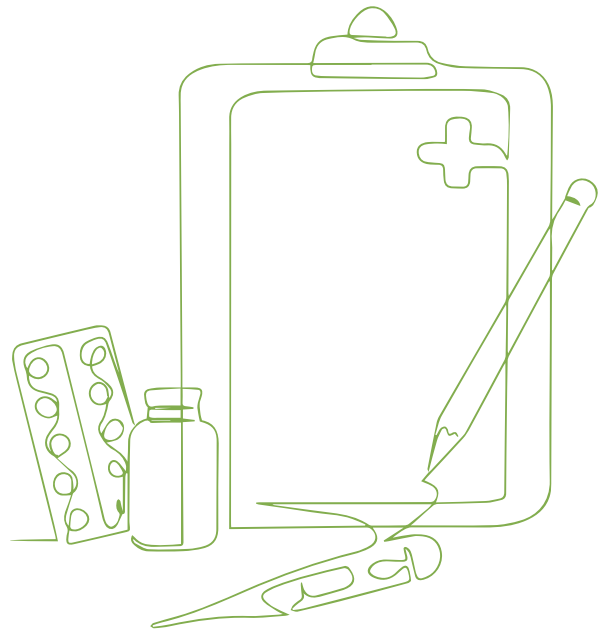
South Dakota BOARD of PHARMACY

Tyler Laetch, Pharm. D. // Executive Director

SD Board Welcomes New Registered Pharmacists and Pharmacies

Congratulations to the following seventeen candidates who recently met licensure requirements and were licensed as new pharmacists in South Dakota: Bryan Brittain, Keith Thomas, Andrew Steppleman, Octavia Dunn, Zeb Benner, Rae Alvin Nguyen, Waqar Younas, Shivani Kantharia, Kristy Ogle, Brenda Gorsett, Halle Brady, Joseph Garcia, Ratna Roman, Trevor Weber, Tyler Weddle, Kacie Mudder, and Shawntessa Lester.

There was one new SD full-time pharmacy license issued to Sanford Rapid City Remote Pharmacy, Rapid City, #100-2097, and one new SD part-time pharmacy license issued to Pharmacy Corporation of America dba Avantara Saint Cloud, Rapid City, #200-1763. There were five new SD Wholesaler licenses issued in the period: Mobridge Regional Hospital, Inc, Mobridge, #600-3623; Avera Home Medical Equipment, LLC, Gregory, #600-3632; Avera Home Medical Equipment, LLC, Watertown, #600-3633; Avera Home Medical Equipment, LLC, Pierre, #600-3634; and Fall River Health Services, Hot Springs, #600-3643.



Kari Shanard-Koenders Receives Award

During the 120th NAPB Annual Meeting, Kari Shanard-Koenders received the Lester E. Hosto Distinguished Service Award for her work in pharmacy and the board. Kari was actively involved in NABP through many task force committees while serving as the Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy. This prestigious award is a small token of appreciation for the time and effort Kari has given the pharmacy industry through her many years and has been recognized by many people. We are so proud of Kari and this accomplishment.

Executive Director Retirement

On May 17, 2024, Kari Shanard-Koenders retired as the Board of Pharmacy Executive Director. She first came to the board in 2012 as the PDMP Director before moving to the Executive Director role in 2015. Tyler Laetsch, who has been a pharmacy inspector for the past six years, has been named the new Executive Director. We thank Kari for her years of service and hard work at the board. She will be greatly missed.

Prescripitor Drug Monitoring Program Update

By PDMP Director Melissa DeNoon

Opioid Prescriptions to SD Patients	RXs	% of all CS RXs	Quantity	Days of Supply
January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016	599,667	46.57%	39,437,769	9,343,889
January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017	581,550	47.00%	41,318,924	8,708,079
January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018	511,271	44.50%	33,876,217	7,532,863
January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019	475,148	42.90%	29,376,211	6,912,053
January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020	436,585	40.70%	25,694,416	6,556,985
January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021	435,896	39.90%	24,692,273	6,368,186
January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022	432,092	38.40%	24,510,251	6,300,834
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023	430,270	37.10%	23,446,031	6,230,206
January 1, 2024 - January 31, 2024	37,557	36.50%	2,075,668	534,988
February 1, 2024 - February 29, 2024	34,847	36.30%	1,903,982	499,272
March 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024	35,325	36.00%	1,943,192	509,493
April 1, 2024 - April 30, 2024	36,525	35.40%	1,965,971	527,609

SD patients' opioid prescriptions:

- o All three measured metrics – total prescription count, total quantity dispensed, and total days of supply dispensed – continue to trend downward annually.
- o Opioid prescription count as a percentage of all controlled substance prescriptions for each month of 2024 has been less than 2023's 37.10%.

Year 2023 Top Ten Controlled Substances (CS) to SD Patients	RXs	Quantity	Days of Supply	Avg Quant/Rx	2022 Rank	2021 Rank
HYDROCODONE BITARTRATE/ACETAMINOPHEN	138,480	7,266,151	1,728,936	52	1	1
DEXTROAMPHETAMINE SULF-SACCHARATE	112,373	5,105,189	3,329,095	45	2	3
TRAMADOL HCL	109,604	6,450,319	1,842,680	59	3	2
LORAZEPAM	75,434	3,113,393	1,613,439	41	4	4
METHYLPHENIDATE HCL	72,688	3,094,021	2,163,012	43	5	7
CLONAZEPAM	67,808	3,627,681	1,978,064	53	6	5
ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE	67,284	2,392,221	2,378,201	36	7	6
OXYCODONE HCL	59,247	2,766,636	676,235	47	8	8
LISDEXAMFETAMINE DIMESYLATE	57,813	1,767,678	1,742,753	31	10	10
PREGABALIN	50,397	4,032,574	1,775,147	80	11	11

Top Ten Controlled Substances Dispensed to SD Patients:

- o This top ten is tracked monthly and annually.
- o The #1 drug continues to be the opioid combination, hydrocodone with acetaminophen.
- o The right two columns show each 2023 drug's rank in the previous two years; note the upward movement of the three highlighted central nervous system stimulants. Prescription drug monitoring programs across the nation are seeing upward trends of stimulants and are adding them as drugs to focus on in addition to opioids.

South Dakota BOARD of PHARMACY

(continued)

Free PDMP CPE for All Pharmacy Staff

By PDMP Director Melissa DeNoon

The National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) and twelve state prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) administrators collaborated on a free continuing pharmacy education (CPE) course for pharmacy technicians and pharmacists. The one-hour CPE course is intended to help pharmacy staff understand the critical role they play in ensuring the quality and integrity of PDMP data which is used in clinical decision-making. This course is hosted on the Talem Health website at this [link](#) and PDMP staff encourages all SD pharmacy staff to take the course.

ARSD 20:51 Rules Revisions

The finalized rules revisions are in effect as of June 2, 2024. Please see the board website for South Dakota pharmacy law and rule changes.

Pharmacist License Renewals Starting Soon

The pharmacist renewal period opens August 1st. Please be sure to complete your renewal on time before the September 30th expiration date. A pharmacist is required to have 12 hours of CE for license renewal and one of the hours must be immunization-related CE if you maintain a pharmacist immunization certificate. If your license is not renewed by September 30th, a pharmacist practicing in the state is subject to Board disciplinary action.

Respectfully submitted for the Board,

TYLER LAETSCH

BOARD MEETING DATES

Please check the [Board of Pharmacy page on Boards and Commissions Website](#) page on the South Dakota Board of Pharmacy website for the time, location, and agenda for future Board meetings.

DIRECTORY

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<https://southdakota.pmpaware.net/login>



South Dakota SOCIETY of HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS

Jenna Lund // SDSHP President



Greetings from the South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists!!

I am always amazed at how quickly the summer months go by! I cannot believe summer is already in full swing!

The 48th SDSHP Annual Conference was held in person in Sioux Falls this past April.

The conference was well attended, which was nice to see after the pandemic. We ran out of chairs, not once, but twice on our first day of the conference, which was a good problem to have! There was a buzz of excitement and chatter throughout the conference of attendees meeting up with different colleagues. Our conference provided over 11 hours of high-quality CE to members over the course of two days. SDSHP was fortunate enough to welcome Dr. Alex Barker, PharmD, who spoke on career satisfaction and provided attendees with an interactive workshop after his keynote! There were a lot of great comments after his presentation and his keynote was applicable to students, residents and pharmacists in any area! In addition, we had poster presentations from pharmacy residents, students as well as some other pharmacists from across the state. We also held networking activities in the evening which were also well attended. Don't forget to mark your calendars for April 11th-12th in Deadwood, SD.

Earlier this year, our Board of Directors approved SDSHP's 2024-2025 strategic plan. This plan will help focus our efforts leading up to the 2025 Annual Meeting in addition to providing direction for the upcoming years. A couple highlights include piloting a new technician committee to increase technician involvement within our organization, revamping some of our committees to involve more of our committee members, as well as redefining our legislative liaison role and how to further educate our members on the legislative process.

The 13th Annual SDSHP Residency Conference will be held on July 19th, 2024 in Oacoma, SD. Alisha Halver, our current resident liaison, has been working hard organizing this meeting for our incoming pharmacy residents!

We will also be holding the 22nd Annual GVR Open Society Golf Classic on July 26th at Rocky Run Golf Course in Dell Rapids, SD. This event is always a great way to bring pharmacists from across the state together for a little fresh air!

We look forward to a fun and exciting year ahead within SDSHP! Please visit our Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn pages or visit our website to keep tabs on the news and upcoming events!

Respectfully submitted,

JENNA LUND

SDSU's Student Collaboration for the *ADVANCEMENT and* PROMOTION of PHARMACY

Aubrey Kooima // SCAPP/APhA-ASP SDSU Chapter President



Earlier this spring, five SCAPP members attended APhA Annual in Orlando, Florida where they attended educational sessions, met with other student leaders to discuss ideas for the chapter, and networked with pharmacists and pharmacy students from all over the United States.

Our chapter was recognized as the APhA-ASP first runner

up in our division for the Chapter Achievement Award. We had one student represent our chapter as the delegate for the APhA-ASP House of Delegates where they discussed and voted on policy proposals. SDSU hosted a South Dakota dinner at Annual where these students along with SDSU faculty, alumni, and the SDPhA President, Jessica Strobl, were able to enjoy great conversation and a meal together.



Throughout the past few months, our chapter has hosted events ranging from patient care screenings to social events for members. The Social and Pre-Pharmacy Committees hosted a trivia night at Cubby's. This event was a hit for pre-pharmacy and professional students alike and allowed members to socialize with students from other classes. We continued the patient screenings at the Brookings Harvest Table where blood pressure and blood glucose screenings were offered.



Our chapter also recognized five members at Spring Convocation for their dedication and involvement in SCAPP. Ryan Johnson received the Pre-Pharmacy Member of the Year award for his enthusiasm and effort in planning and attending SCAPP events. Ryan served as our Legislative Committee Chair this year. The Networking Award was given to Abby Riesgraf for the work she has dedicated to our chapter's peer mentoring program. Because of her efforts, this program doubled the number of mentees from last year. The Outreach Award was given to Madison Hamel because of her connections and bringing new speakers to our chapter. Meghan Haan received the Patient Care Award. She served as our Patient Care Coordinator

for the year and started multiple new patient care events including the VA Car Show. Finally, the Professional Organizations Award was given to Emily Tisler for her successful events within SSHP. She hosted a professionalism week in the fall that involved CV and resume reviews, a Dot card fundraiser, and professional headshots for members. We are thankful for the excitement and leadership each of these individuals displayed within SCAPP!



Abigail Pape, an incoming P1 student, attended the APhA Institute on Substance Use Disorders in Salt Lake City, Utah in May. This four-day conference included educational

sessions, 12-Step meetings, a scenic hike, and therapy dogs. Abigail said, "I am incredibly grateful for this wonderful experience! I was able to meet so many others with a shared passion for patient care and bettering our world. I have grown so much from this experience, both personally and professionally. The Institute really is a different type of conference and is so holistic. If I could pass on one thing I learned, it is to always be an open resource for when patients are ready to seek treatment for substance use disorders and any other underlying health conditions. Support and compassion will go a long way!"

Finally, SCAPP offered a new patient care and cultural experience for members this May with the Pine Ridge Experience. Bria Sutton, a current P4 student, planned and led this trip for nine students and one faculty member to Porcupine, South Dakota. They collaborated with the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council at Pine Ridge where they conducted blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol patient screenings and served lunch to the individuals at Pine Ridge. They also provided education on naloxone administration and recognizing opioid overdose symptoms. These students delivered essential health services to an underserved population while enhancing the cultural competence of future pharmacy professionals.

As we round out another school year, we want to thank SDPhA and all the pharmacists around the state who have supported or assisted with SCAPP events this year. We look forward to the continued partnership in the upcoming year!

Respectfully submitted,

AUBREY KOOIMA

SDSU COLLEGE of PHARMACY and ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Dan Hansen, PharmD // Dean and Professor



Hello from the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions! We're starting into the summer months here at SDSU. Campus is quiet and our faculty and staff are hard at work performing summer activities and instruction, conducting research, and preparing for the fall semester.

In May we celebrated the graduation of the students from

our college. Recognizing students from all the academic programs within the College is always a great way to close out the academic year. With graduation and the end of the academic year, we celebrated several events, including the Pharm.D. Hooding Ceremony, the APH Department Graduation Celebration, and our May Extravaganza.

As we said goodbye to some students, we also welcomed others! We welcomed a brand new cohort of respiratory care students, including seven students who will be at our new sites in Madison, Brookings, and Huron. This is the first cohort of students located at these new sites.

Speaking of Respiratory Care, our RC team was once again recognized for excellence. The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) awarded us the "Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award." To be eligible for this award, programs were required to: (1) have three or more years of outcomes data; (2) hold accreditation without a progress report at the end of the year; (3) document RRT credentialing success of 90% or above, and (4) meet or exceed established CoARC thresholds for TMC high cut score and retention. We also received the "President's Award for Excellence in Credentialing Success Award." To be eligible for this award, programs were required to: (1) have three or more years of outcomes data; (2) hold accreditation without a progress report at the end of the

year; (3) document RRT credentialing success of 100%, and (4) meet or exceed established CoARC thresholds for TMC high cut score and retention.

Additionally, we recently were awarded \$750,000 from the Association of Public Health Laboratories to help promote the medical lab profession in South Dakota. The ultimate goal is to use a variety of tools to increase student interest in the career path and ensure success once they are enrolled in one of our MLS program tracks.

Finally, on the public health side, Stephanie Hanson was awarded a Wokini Challenge Grant for a project titled BIRTH-SD-UNITE. The goal of this one-year program is to hire an American Indian undergraduate student who will work with the nine American Indian tribes in South Dakota to collect and record traditional birthing practices and ceremonies, with the goal of improving maternal and child health outcomes in the state.

New Interim Appointments:

- Marissa Trosen is now the Interim Director of the Respiratory Care Program, and Abby Wortman will serve as the Acting Director of Clinical Education.
- Jim Amell has agreed to be the Interim Head of the Department of Allied and Population Health.

In closing, I think it is important for you all to know that our Pharm.D. admission numbers look strong for the coming year. While nationally things are relatively flat, SDSU is expecting a class of at least 60 P1's. I want to thank all our faculty and staff for their hard work promoting the majors throughout our college, but a special shoutout to our student services team – Dr. Jim Clem, Ms. Brooke Merry, and Ms. Asha Hertler.

Have a great summer!

DAN HANSEN

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PHARMACISTS
ASSOCIATION



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FAQS

What is Pharmacy Technicians University (PTU)?

A comprehensive online pharmacy technician training program, designed for technicians of all levels that includes exam prep for the PTCE® and ExCPT exams, as well as the CSPT™ exam. PTU is engaging, self-paced, and interactive!

What does it cost?

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Why should I use PTU?

You will get:

- Easy-to-use and interesting course materials like videos and slides
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TRAINING PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Flexible offerings to meet state training requirements across all of your locations
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- PTU National Standards Entry- and Advanced-Level programs meet new guidelines

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Today, pharmacy technicians are increasingly important members of the pharmacy team. Skilled pharmacy technicians are critical for the economic and efficient function of a pharmacy. However, training requirements for pharmacy technicians change often and are becoming more complex, creating a shortage of qualified pharmacy technicians.

Pharmacy Technicians University (PTU) offers:

- Programs ranging from 95 to 605 hours of didactic, simulation, and experiential learning
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Current Course Curriculum reflects the latest industry trends and complies with state and national regulations.

Practice Skills with Feedback Features that allow techs to observe, practice, and demonstrate techniques.

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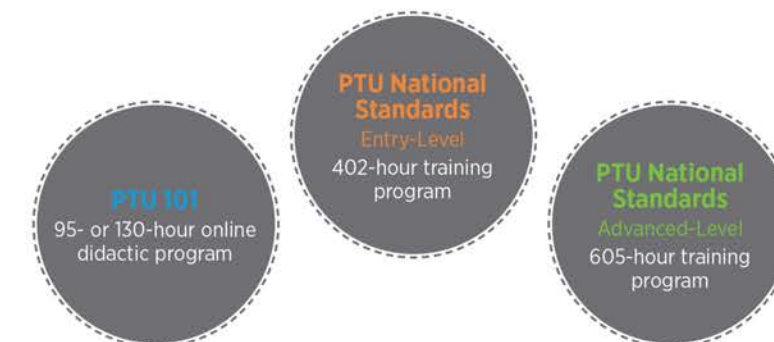
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It is the policy of the South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions that all sponsored CPE programming present evidence-based information that is professionally objective and non-commercial / non-promotional.

PRECEPTOR TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education Course Listings

Current Courses

- [Do You Hear What I Hear? A Call for Change in the Language Used by Pharmacists in Diabetes Care](#)
- [Pharmacist Consult: An Update on Parkinson's Disease Prevalence and Treatment](#)
- [Simple Ways to Help Reduce Medication Errors and Patient Harm in the Community Pharmacy](#)

[Register for a CPE course today!](#)

Course Information

Course Development	Disclosure Statement
This course was developed under the guidance and review protocols of the Office of Continuing Education, South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.	The author and developer of this course have had no relevant financial relationships with any commercial entity having a vested interest in this material.

Course Details

Do You Hear What I Hear? A Call for Change in the Language Used by Pharmacists in Diabetes Care

Course Authors

- Marla J. Hayes, TC Columbia University

Credit Information

- **ACPE Universal Activity Number:** 0063-0000-22-024-H01-P
- **Credits:** 1.5 hour (0.15 CEU)
- **Activity Type:** Knowledge
- **Target Audience:** Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
- **Course release date:** 3-16-2022
- **Expiration date:** 3-16-2025
- **Cost:** \$8.50

PRECEPTOR TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Do You Hear What I Hear? A Call for Change in the Language Used by Pharmacists in Diabetes Care

Course Development

The following public report was published by the South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health

Goal

To provide pharmacists with actionable information on Diabetes Care and Glucose Monitoring.

Contact Hour Details

To receive 1.5 Contact Hours (0.15 CEUs) of continuing education credit, participants will read the provided article, answer the test questions, and complete the course evaluation. A test score of 75% or better is required to earn continuing pharmacy education credit. If a score of 75% (9/12) is not achieved on the first attempt, participants can complete one retest at no additional charge. Credit upload to a participant's eProfile account will be completed within 2 weeks following successful completion of this course.

Learning Assessment

Active learning quiz questions and Learning Assessment test questions for this course were developed by the South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

Financial Disclosure

The developer of this course has no financial relationships to declare.

Pharmacist learning objectives

Upon completion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Understand the emerging trend to utilize pharmacists as care extenders in diabetes care.
- Evaluate the history of present-day healthcare language and identify its shortcoming in diabetes care.
- Analyze why the language used in diabetes care matters.
- Apply the impact of a pharmacist's language on diabetes self-care.
- Create examples of disengaging language used by pharmacists in diabetes care.
- Remember two guiding principles for transitioning to person-centered language.

QuestionPro Post-Test and Evaluation [TAKE NOW](#)

- Introduction
- [The role of pharmacists in diabetes care](#)
- [History of present-day healthcare language](#)
- [Why language matters](#)
- [Impact of a pharmacist's language on diabetes self-care](#)
- [Examples of disengaging language used by pharmacists](#)
- [Guiding principles for transitioning to person-centered language](#)
- Conclusion
- References
- Appendix A
- Appendix B



2024 SOUTH DAKOTA PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION 138th ANNUAL CONVENTION



BROOKINGS | SOUTH DAKOTA | SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2024

EXHIBIT AREA

The exhibit area will be at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, SD. Lunch will be available for both the exhibitors and all convention attendees.

SETTING UP

Setup may begin Friday morning from 8-10 am. All materials must be removed by 3 pm.

SHIPPING LOCATION

Exhibitors are welcome to ship materials directly to the Dacotah Bank Center up to three days prior to the SDPhA Convention at the address below. Please note the Dacotah Bank Center does not have a loading dock. If you have a large shipment, please ensure the truck has lift/drop capabilities, or shipper will provide their forklift.

Dacotah Bank Center
Attn: SD Pharmacists Association
"Exhibitor Name"
824 32nd Avenue
Brookings SD 57006WW

EXHIBIT SPACE

The exhibit space includes one 6 foot, skirted table for tabletop exhibits, two chairs, electricity (additional cost), one convention, and exhibitor/sponsor recognition.

EXHIBIT HOURS

The exhibit area will be open Friday, Sept., 15 from 11 am to 1 pm in the Daktronics Conference Center A&B.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Hampton Inn Suites Brookings
3017 Lefevre Drive
Brookings, SD 57006
605-697-5232
Ask for the South Dakota Pharmacists Association block.

REGISTRATION
- DEADLINE -
AUGUST 16TH
2024

EXHIBITOR SPONSOR

- 6 foot table for table top exhibits
- Electricity (upon request / fee)
- 1 Convention Registration
- Exhibitor / Sponsor Recognition

PLATINUM SPONSOR

- 1 Exhibit Booth
- 4 Convention Registrations
- Exhibitor / Sponsor Recognition
- 4 full-page ads in SDPhA Journal
- Recognition in event Program
- Company Logo & Website Link on SDPhA Website

GOLD SPONSOR

- 1 Exhibit Booth
- 2 Convention Registrations
- Exhibitor / Sponsor Recognition
- 2 full-page ads in SDPhA Journal
- Recognition in event Program
- Company Logo on SDPhA Website

SILVER SPONSOR

- 1 Exhibit Booth
- 2 Convention Registrations
- Exhibitor / Sponsor recognition
- Recognition in SDPhA Journal
- Recognition in event Program
- Company Logo on SDPhA Website

BREAKFAST SPONSOR

- Exclusive Friday or Saturday Sponsor
- Recognition in the SDPhA Fall Journal
- Recognition on Social Media
- Recognition during Awards Presentation and event Program
- Logo and Thank You Signage
- Ability to place promotional information at Breakfast Tables (sponsoring Company responsible for materials and placement)

WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR

- Exclusive Thursday Sponsor
- Recognition in the SDPhA Fall Journal
- Recognition on Social Media
- Recognition during Awards Presentation and event Program
- Logo and Thank You Signage
- Ability to place promotional information at Tables (sponsoring Company responsible for materials and placement)

NETWORKING BREAK SPONSOR

- Exclusive Saturday Sponsor
- Recognition in the SDPhA Fall Journal
- Recognition on Social Media
- Recognition during Awards Presentation and event Program
- Logo and Thank You Signage

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

EXHIBITOR SPONSOR (Exhibit Space is limited, and is first-come, first-served)

SDPhA Associate Member – \$850

Non-SDPhA Associate Member – \$995

PLATINUM SPONSOR – \$6,000

GOLD SPONSOR – \$4,000

SILVER SPONSOR – \$2,500

BREAKFAST SPONSORS (2) – \$2,000

WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR (1) – \$2,000

BOXED LUNCH SPONSOR (1) – \$1,500

NETWORKING BREAK SPONSOR (1) – \$750



Please return completed form and payment to South Dakota Pharmacists Association, PO Box 518, Pierre, SD 57501. We also accept MasterCard, VISA or AMEX with online registration at www.SDPhA.org. Tax ID# 46-019-1834



Questions? Call Amanda Bacon at 605-224-2338 or email her at SDPhA@SDPhA.org.

2024 SOUTH DAKOTA PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION 138th ANNUAL CONVENTION



BROOKINGS | SOUTH DAKOTA | SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2024

FREE SDSU STUDENT REGISTRATION

Registration must be submitted prior to September 1, 2024.
Hotel not included.

FULL REGISTRATION

Before August 23, 2024
After August 23, 2024

	SDPHA MEMBER	SPOUSE GUEST	CHILDREN	SDAPT MEMBER	PHARMACY TECHNICIAN	PHARMACY STUDENT	NON-SDPHA MEMBER	
Before August 23, 2024	\$249	\$125	\$25	\$115	\$199	FREE	\$350	\$ _____
After August 23, 2024	\$325	\$150	\$25	\$150	\$205	FREE	\$375	\$ _____

Includes all educational sessions, exhibits, meals and evening events, if applicable.

1-DAY REGISTRATION

Friday, September 13, 2024
Saturday, September 14, 2024

Friday, September 13, 2024	\$200	\$100	\$15	\$105	\$179	FREE	\$250	\$ _____
Saturday, September 14, 2024	\$100	\$75	\$15	\$105	\$130	FREE	\$125	\$ _____

Includes educational sessions, exhibits, meals, and evening event, if applicable.

EXTRA TICKETS

Friday Lunch	\$25	\$25	\$15	\$25	\$25	FREE	\$25	\$ _____
Saturday Breakfast	\$20	\$20	\$15	\$25	\$25	FREE	\$25	\$ _____

I would like to sponsor a student.

I have included an additional gift of \$ _____

I wish to contribute to the SDPhA Commercial & Legislative Fund.

I have included an additional amount of \$ _____

EVENT CANCELLATION POLICY

- Cancellations will be accepted without penalty prior to September 1, 2024.
- A \$25 fee will be applied to all cancellations after September 1, 2024.
- Refunds will be issued after October 1, 2024.
- Attendee is responsible for canceling hotel reservations.

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM TODAY!

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Hampton Inn & Suites Brookings
3017 Lefevre Drive, Brookings, SD 57006
605-697-5232
Ask for the South Dakota Pharmacists Association block.
Room block releases Friday, August 23, 2024.

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Business Name _____

Business Address _____

Business City / State / Zip _____

Business Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Spouse / Guest Name _____

eProfile ID _____



Please return completed form and payment to South Dakota Pharmacists Association, PO Box 518, Pierre, SD 57501. We also accept MasterCard, VISA or AMEX with online registration at www.SDPhA.org. Tax ID# 46-019-1834



Questions? Call Amanda Bacon at 605-224-2338 or email her at SDPhA@SDPhA.org.

2024 SOUTH DAKOTA PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION 138th ANNUAL CONVENTION



BROOKINGS | SOUTH DAKOTA | SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2024

All events and times are subject to change. All events are at the Dakotah Bank Center unless noted otherwise. Topics will be updated with presentation titles.



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**THUR
9.12**

1 – 5 pm South Dakota Board of Pharmacy Meeting
Location TBD
5:30 – 7:30 pm Welcome Reception

**FRI
9.13**

7 – 8 am Breakfast Buffet
8 – 9 am Heart Failure / Cardiology – Holly Flynn, Pharm.D, BCACP
ACPE 1.0 Credit Hour
9 – 10 am New Drug Update – Joe Strain, Pharm.D
ACPE 1.0 Credit Hour
10 – 11 am Law Update – Tyler Laetsch, Pharm.D and Melissa DeNoon, RPh
ACPE 1.0 Credit Hour
11 am – 1 pm Vendor Showcase and Awards Luncheon
1 – 2:30 pm SDPhA Business Meeting #1
Hot Topics: Legislative Process, HB 1135 – How it Works
1.5 SD BOP Credit
2:30 – 3 pm Ice Cream Break
3 – 4 pm Diabetes Update – Courtney Feist, Pharm.D
ACPE 1.0 Credit Hour
4 – 5:30 pm ADHD – Jeremy Daniel, Pharm.D, BCPS, BCPP
ACPE 1.5 Credit Hour

**SAT
9.14**

7:30 – 8:30 am Breakfast and SDPhA Business Meeting #2
1 SD BOP Credit
8:30 – 10 am Sterile Compounding / USP 797 – Brenda Jensen CPhT, CNMT, MBA and Lucas Kraemer, Pharm.D
ACPE 1.5 Credit Hour
10 – 11 am Antimicrobial Infectious Disease – Ryan Flynn, Pharm.D, BCIDP
ACPE 1.0 Credit Hour
11 am – 1 pm Immunization Update – Deidra Van Gilder, Pharm.D and Alex Middendorf, Pharm.D, MBA
ACPE 2.0 Credit Hour



Have you ever wondered how your Well-Being compares to others? Consider investing six minutes in your well-being. The Well-Being Index is a brief online self-assessment, invented by the Mayo Clinic and brought to you through a partnership with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), which provides you immediate individualized feedback including tools and local and national resources to address your well-being. You can set-up the frequency you wish to assess your well-being and track your progress.

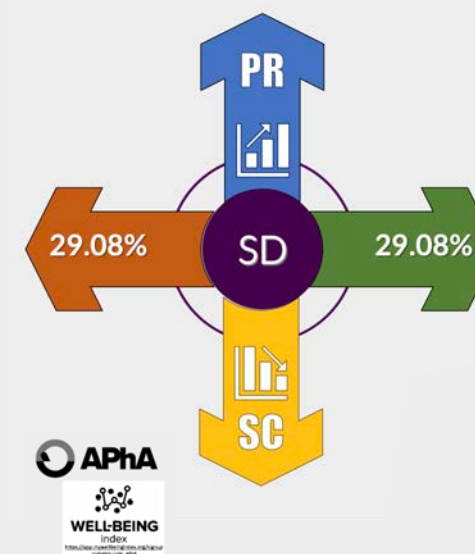
Your information and score are private and your individual score will not be shared with APhA or anyone else. You do not have to be an APhA member to participate.



**TAKE THE SURVEY NOW
IN A FEW EASY STEPS:**

1. Go to: www.mywellbeingindex.org/signup
2. If asked for a participation code, use APHA
3. Register (approx. 3 minutes)
4. Take the survey (approx. 3 minutes)

WELL-BEING INDEX FOR PHARMACY PERSONNEL STATE DISTRESS PERCENT *



JUNE 2024

As of June 2024, the South Dakota distress percent was 29.08% (ranked 40/52) with 73 assessors.

MAY 2024

As of May 2024, the South Dakota distress percent was 29.08% (ranked 39/52) with 73 assessors.

STATE COMPARISON

As of June 2024

Puerto Rico is the highest at 52.78% (n=30)

South Carolina has the lowest 20.93% (n=613)

*Distress Percent is the percentage of individuals with a Well-Being Index (WBI) score ≥ 5 . It measures the percent of individuals that are at a high level of distress.



Helping Community Pharmacies Gain Confidence and Peace of Mind

- ▶ Audit Assistance Service
- ▶ FWA/HIPAA Compliance Program
- ▶ USP 800 Compliance Program

The analyst team at PAAS National® consists of 5 pharmacists and 3 certified technicians; dedicated to helping you survive predatory audits, compliance issues, and whatever new trick PBMs are exploiting. PAAS continuously updates their database with information from every audit received — in fact, PAAS even keeps a scorecard on individual auditors.

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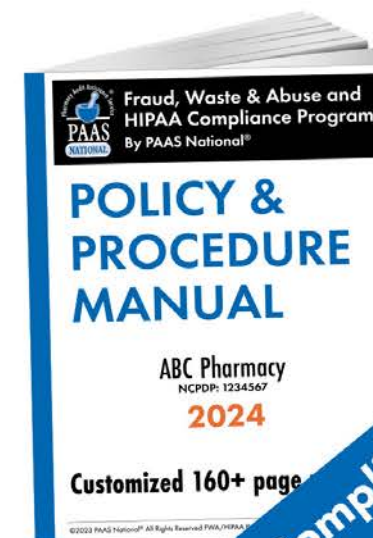
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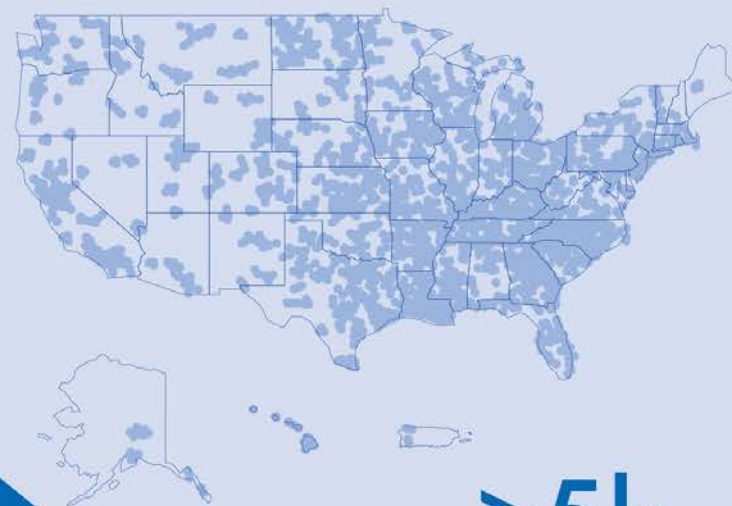
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- FWA/HIPAA membership entitles a pharmacy up to 20 employees. Additional employees are \$15, billed annually.

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Introducing PAAS Cybersecurity Training

In a world where threats lurk around every digital corner, safeguarding sensitive information has never been more crucial. Recent events, such as the [Change Healthcare cyberattack](#)¹, serve as stark reminders of the pressing need for robust cybersecurity measures. In pharmacies, where compliance with regulations like HIPAA are of great importance, the stakes are higher than ever.

PAAS National® is excited to announce the launching of a new training series to [PAAS' FWA/HIPAA Compliance Program](#)² members: PAAS Cybersecurity Training. This comprehensive training series, provided at no extra cost, represents a proactive step towards mitigating risks and fostering a culture of security awareness among pharmacy staff.

Comprising of five modules, each tailored to address specific cybersecurity challenges, PAAS' training empowers employees with knowledge and best practices to hinder potential threats related to:

1. Network Connected Medical Device Security
2. Insider Data Loss
3. Loss or Theft of Equipment and Data
4. Ransomware
5. Social Engineering

It's important to recognize that cybersecurity is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. The dynamic nature of threats necessitates continual adaptation and vigilance, tailored to the unique circumstances of each organization.

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

- References: 1. <https://www.unitedhealthgroup.com/ns/changehealthcare.html>
 2. <https://paasnational.com/fwac-hipaa/>

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OptumRx Auditing for Medical Supplies Billed Under Medicare Part D

In March 2024, PAAS National® analyst assisted nearly 100 pharmacies with desk audits from OptumRx requesting documentation related to claims for medical supplies (primarily alcohol swabs) that were processed by OptumRx under the Medicare Part D benefit. OptumRx asked pharmacies to provide copies of insulin prescriptions as well as the associated fill histories, signature logs and explanation of payment for these insulin prescriptions dispensed between July 2019 and June 2023.

Most pharmacies report dispensing no insulin to the patients in question and explained that the alcohol swabs were being used in conjunction with diabetes testing supplies (test strips, lancets) that were also billed to OptumRx. Since OptumRx covered the cost for diabetes testing supplies, it would suggest that patients were enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (MAPD) plan and OptumRx incorrectly categorized the alcohol swab claims as "Part D" when they should have categorized as "Part B". The OptumRx audits seem to stem directly from a [nationwide CMS audit of Plan Sponsors](#)¹ initiated in December 2023. During this audit, CMS scrutinized Part D claims for medical supplies, such as alcohol swabs, in cases where patients lacked any claim history for insulin use.

The coverage of insulin and its related supplies may vary depending on the Medicare benefit type and the intended use of the item. Specifically, insulin vials and alcohol swabs could be eligible for coverage under either Medicare Part B or Part D.

Keep in mind that Medicare patients could have prescription and medical benefits that are separate or combined.

- Separate: standalone medical benefit Fee-for-Service (FFS), also known as "Original Medicare" + stand-alone pharmacy benefit through a Part D Plan (PDP)
- Combined: medical and pharmacy benefit under one roof (sometimes called Medicare Part C) through Medicare Advantage (MAPD) Plan

Here is a chart to help you identify the correct payer depending on the type of Medicare benefit and the item in question.

	Pharmacy	Medical	Combined
	Medicare Part D (PDP)	Original FFS Medicare (Part B/DMEPOS)	Medicare Advantage (MAPD)
Insulin supplies			
Insulin pen	Yes	No	Yes
Insulin vial for self-administration	Yes	No	Yes
Insulin vial for DURABLE pump ¹	No	Yes	Yes
Insulin vial for DISPOSABLE pump ²	Yes	No	Yes
Insulin syringes	Yes	No	Yes
Alcohol Swabs for Part D insulin ³	Yes	No	Yes
Alcohol Swabs for glucose testing	No	Yes	Yes
Alcohol Swabs for any other use	No	No	No
Testing Supplies			
Test Strips	No	Yes	Yes
Lancets	No	Yes	Yes

A few nuances to keep in mind:

1. Generally, insulin used in a DURABLE pump is covered under Medicare Part B, unless patient does not meet coverage criteria
2. Insulin used in a DISPOSABLE pump such as V-Go® or Omnipod®
3. Alcohol swabs are only covered under Part D when used for the injection of insulin according to Section 10.5 from Chapter 6 of the [Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Manual](#)². Additionally, PBMs are likely to audit for high AWP alcohol swabs or when used in excess (i.e., if patient is to use both "before and after" injection).

PAAS Tips:

- If you are unsure about a patient's Medicare coverage (PDP vs MAPD), then ask to see a copy of their card and look for "MAPD" or "Medicare Advantage" wording, or call the patient help desk if needed
- If a Medicare patient presents a prescription for insulin vials, clarify if self-administered or used in a pump
 - o The instructions for use may make the route clear such that no clarifications are needed
 - o The presence of insulin syringes on a patient's profile may also provide context

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

- References: 1. https://granepbm.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Medical_Supplies_Associated_with_the_Delivery_of_Insulin_Audit_Notification_Memo.pdf
 2. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coverage/prescription-drug-coverage-contracting/prescription-drug-benefit-manual>

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SAFETY TIP

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: BE MORE CAREFUL!

If your corrective actions are centered on plans to ‘be more careful,’ ‘slow down,’ ‘pay more attention,’ and similar admonishments, then your focus is probably on ‘human fallibility’ and not on truly understanding the problems in the workflow and systems. Shifting your focus to how the workflow system failed and fixing those problems will yield longer-lasting and more effective results.



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.

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