

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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- Celebrating Excellence in South Dakota Pharmacy
- The Latest: Medicare Drug Pricing Negotiation Program

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- Contact your elected officials
- Meet your elected officials or give them a tour of your pharmacy



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

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2025 Calendar

OCTOBER

American Pharmacists Month

- 13 Native American Day
- 17-19 National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) Fall Meeting | New Orleans, LA
- 18-21 Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding (PCCA) International Seminar | Minneapolis, MN
- 18-21 National Community Pharmacists Association Convention & Expo | New Orleans, LA
- 19 National Pharmacy Week Begins
- 20 Sioux Falls District Fall Meeting
Sioux Falls, SD | CRAVE | 6 pm
- 21 National Pharmacy Technician Day
- 22 Medical Marijuana Oversight Committee
Pierre, SD
- 25 DEA Take Back Day | SD [Participating Locations](#)

NOVEMBER

- 11 Veteran's Day
- 14 Aberdeen District Fall Meeting
Aberdeen, SD | Mavrick's | 6 pm
- 27 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

- 2 Governor's Budget Address | Pierre, SD
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

SAVE THE DATE 2026

- February 10-11: Legislative Days | Pierre, SD
- September 10-12: SDPhA 139th Annual Convention | Brookings, SD

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SOUTH DAKOTA
PHARMACISTS
ASSOCIATION



Fall
EDITION

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- 22-23 Academy of Student Pharmacists
- 24-25 Pharmacy Technicians University (PTU)

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The South Dakota Pharmacist is published quarterly: January, April, July, and October. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official positions or views of the South Dakota Pharmacists Association.

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American Pharmacists Month
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Director's COMMENTS

Amanda Bacon // SDPhA Executive Director



139 years. That's what we just celebrated at the 2025 Annual Convention in Deadwood.

This year hit a little differently for me. It marked big changes for the Association—and some exciting firsts for the convention itself. Our first **Script Sessions** (reverse expo). Our first time—and theirs—partnering with SDSU on the new **Learning Express CE platform**.

And here's the exciting news: if you missed convention and really hoped to catch some of those CE courses, you'll soon get your chance. We'll be able to offer them online—so keep an eye on your email for updates!

I logged more than **16,000 steps a day** at The Lodge during those two days. Exercise, literally—but also an exercise in transition. It was our first convention held completely independent of the state. We changed bylaws to create a new member structure.

For me, it was also an exercise in balance: honoring where we've been and those who got us here, while building on that legacy with eyes fixed firmly on the future.

This year, it all hit home for me during our **Awards Luncheon**. If you've been there, you know the moment I'm talking about—the quiet shuffle as honorees make their way to the stage. The applause that starts politely and grows louder with each name. The laughter that bubbles up as familiar faces share hugs, inside jokes, and a few tears.

It's the sound of belonging. Of pride. Of legacy.

That feeling filled every corner of the room in Deadwood. We celebrated pharmacists who have served for fifty years or more—five decades of care, resilience, and community.

We honored those just beginning to make their mark: the young pharmacists, technicians, and partners who bring innovation and heart to the profession's next chapter.

Every award presented this year tells a story—about service in the most rural corners of our state, about leadership that begins in a Sunday school classroom or a city council meeting, about pharmacy professionals who never stop showing up for their patients.

These honorees remind us what makes the South Dakota pharmacy landscape unique: we're small enough to know each other's stories, and strong enough to make a difference together. *You can find a detailed article celebrating this year's honorees starting on page 8.*

Membership Matters: Scripting the Future

Moments like that luncheon remind me why I've stuck with it throughout all the change—our work matters—and why this next chapter for SDPhA is so important.

As most of you know, **July 1** marked the official end of SDPhA's statutory funding mechanism. That change means we're building a new, modern membership model from the ground up—a process that's deliberate by design.

The bylaw change authorizing this new structure was approved at convention, and the Board will finalize the new member and dues structure at its next meeting. We're targeting a **November rollout**, complete with a new online member portal (that's taking a little longer than I'd like—because yes, your Executive Director is also the IT department!).

We've had many questions about dues, and we anticipate individual memberships will be set at **\$250 per year**. That's expected to generate about **\$50,000** in revenue in year one—leaving a funding gap of roughly **\$150,000** from what the statutory system once provided.

Closing that gap is where creativity and partnership come in. We're expanding **associate memberships** (a *huge* shout-out to **Lewis Drug**, our first Pharmacy Partner Associate Member!) and **corporate partnerships** to sustain our advocacy, education, and member services long-term.

Corporate partnership options are now live on the SDPhA website (the associate member portion is still under construction), and organizations have already begun stepping forward to join us.

This campaign isn't just about funding—it's about ownership. It's about every member having a voice and a stake in the future of the Association. When the full membership campaign officially launches, I hope you'll help spread the word, invite colleagues to join, and proudly stand as one of SDPhA's first members in this new era.

Transforming Rural Health: A Seat at the Table

That same spirit is at the heart of another important conversation taking shape in South Dakota: the **Rural Health Transformation Program**.

This federal initiative—authorized through the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” or HR 1—invests **\$50 billion over five years** to help states strengthen healthcare access in rural and frontier communities. South Dakota could receive **\$100–200 million per year**, depending on the strength of the application and rural health metrics.

SDPhA submitted extensive public comments and remains closely engaged in follow-up discussions with state officials. Our message is simple: **pharmacy must be part of the transformation**.

Many small towns in South Dakota have a pharmacy—even where no clinic exists. Pharmacists are the most accessible members of the healthcare team and nowhere is that more true than in rural South Dakota, where the pharmacist is often the only healthcare professional patients see regularly.

Through this program, we've advocated for strategies that stabilize rural pharmacy access, reimburse pharmacists for clinical care, invest in workforce training and technician pipelines, and modernize practice so every member of the pharmacy team can fully work at the top of their license.

SDPhA leaders past and present have also participated in **Community Conversations** hosted by state leaders to ensure pharmacy's perspective is reflected in the state's application. The state's submission is due **November 1**, with federal decisions expected by year-end.

This work will take time—but it represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen rural pharmacy and ensure that no South Dakotan loses access to care because of their ZIP code.

Looking Ahead

On the advocacy front, SDPhA continues to prioritize **PBM reform, Part D contract modernization, and ECAPS legislation**, while monitoring developments in **340B, Medicare/Medicaid funding**, and our ongoing **Standard of Care** regulatory model and **practice act** discussions. We're also closely tracking reimbursement legislation in other states, analyzing models and strategies that could inform our work here in South Dakota, and preparing for the **2026 legislative session**.

Like many healthcare organizations, we anticipate spending a significant amount of time playing defense on several fronts, given the tone of many national healthcare discussions. We also expect to see **Board of Pharmacy legislation**, mostly cleanup related to last year's bill and recent rules changes.

The months ahead will demand persistence and partnership—but after seeing how far we've come in just the last year, I'm confident we're ready.

As we move through this season of change—transforming systems, new membership, and strengthening rural care—I keep coming back to that sound in the ballroom: the applause, the laughter, the heartbeat.

That's the sound of the South Dakota pharmacy profession moving forward. That's the sound of **#ScriptingTheFuture**.

Onward and upward,

AMANDA BACON

Celebrating EXCELLENCE in SD PHARMACY

Honoring the 2025 SDPhA Award Winners

Each year at the SDPhA Annual Convention, the Awards Luncheon is a highlight—a time to celebrate the incredible pharmacists, technicians, and partners who make South Dakota pharmacy what it is: close-knit, innovative, and deeply committed to patients and communities.

This year's ceremony at The Lodge in Deadwood carried all the familiar energy of our "pharmacy family"—equal parts laughter, applause, and a few well-earned tears.

50-Year Pharmacist Recognition



The room rose to its feet as SDPhA recognized nine pharmacists who've been licensed for 50 years or more—a half-century of care, leadership, and service.

These pharmacists have guided generations of practitioners, weathered industry changes, and remained pillars in their communities:

Dennis Swanson	Robert Holbeck	James Marcovich
Kevin Wurtz	Susan Lahr	Marilyn Milner
Yee-lai Chiu	Alyce Marcovich	Bradford Wallenberg

Each honoree received a commemorative pin and certificate, recognizing their remarkable milestone and lifelong contributions to the profession.



Kevin Wurtz

My wife, Barb, and I owned and operated Pioneer Drug in Elk Point for 39 years before selling the business to Lewis Drug in 2016. We are proud parents of four children — two pharmacists and two engineers.

Throughout our careers, we've been honored to receive several meaningful recognitions, including the Bowl of Hygieia Award in 1999, the Honorary President Award in 2010, and the South Dakota Retailers' Business Couple of the Year. In 2024, our family was also recognized as the SDSU Family of the Year — a moment of special pride for us.

It has been a privilege to serve our community through pharmacy for the past five decades.



Yee-lai Chiu

I am a native of Hong Kong and arrived in America in 1971 to pursue higher education. In 1975, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from SDSU. My first pharmacist position was offered to me by Mr. Terry Casey at Casey Drug in Chamberlain, SD.

Working in a traditional small-town pharmacy with a soda fountain, wine and liquor products, jewelry selections, veterinary and health care products, provided a truly rewarding learning experience for me. The most meaningful aspect was building relationships with patients and their families. During July 4th celebrations, we even offered fireworks. I recall a time when the owner of the drugstore across the street fell ill, and Mr. Casey sent me to help dispense medications for that drugstore's patients.

In 1978, I chose to specialize in hospital pharmacy and was accepted into the first hospital pharmacy residency program at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. Under the mentorship of Mr. Ron Huether, Mr. Dave Kuper,

Mr. Bob Lewis, Mr. Bill Bradfedlt, and Dr. Jerome Kappes, I spent 15 years developing and implementing decentralized clinical pharmacy services, including establishing a surgical satellite pharmacy. I also served as a preceptor to many SDSU students.

In 1991, I founded Complete Home Care Pharmacy, a home infusion pharmacy, with my college classmate Dr. Brad Wallenberg. Apart from home infusion and sterile compounding services, we provided intravenous therapy support to Long-Term Care Facilities in Sioux Falls, Brookings, Mitchell, Huron, Watertown, and small towns within a 200-mile radius. Collaborating with hometown pharmacists to offer IV therapy for nursing home patients was an invaluable experience. Sadly, today, many independent small-town pharmacies in South Dakota are disappearing.

In 1993, I was honored to receive the first Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award from the SDPA. Also, in 1993, I was contracted to establish a hospital pharmacy at the Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital. Currently, I serve as Director of Pharmacy there, leading a dedicated team of pharmacists and technicians.

In 2011, my son, Thomas Chiu, and I opened our second CareTrends Pharmacy location in Sioux Falls. Both of our home infusion pharmacies are ACHC accredited in home infusion therapy, USP 797 Sterile compounding, and DMEPOS.

Pharmacy has always provided me with new opportunities for learning and growth. Throughout my career, I have participated in research, clinical trial projects, and have consulted for several ambulatory surgical clinics in the Sioux Falls and Brookings areas. The challenges have always motivated me to strive for a positive impact on people's lives. I am grateful to my staff, pharmacists, and technicians for their teamwork and dedication, and especially thankful for my wife Carla and our children Thomas, James, and Katie. Today, I am blessed with good health and proud to have served my profession for fifty years, with hope to continue for many more!



James & Alyce Marcovich

After graduation we both got jobs in Sioux City, IA, at separate independent drug stores. In December of 1976 we purchased a store in Fairmont, Minnesota. (We were young and

brave as we weren't even licensed in Minnesota then). We expanded and started a floral and gift shop We sold our business and retired in 2013. Since then, we've traveled as much as we could.

Pharmacy Technician of the Year Jessica McGillivray

When Jessica McGillivray first stepped into a pharmacy ten years ago, she didn't yet know she was beginning a career that would impact hundreds of patients and define excellence for her peers. She had no pharmacy background—just genuine curiosity, enthusiasm, and a deep sense of responsibility.

Jessica quickly proved herself indispensable. She completed the Pharmacy Technician University program and passed her national certification on the first attempt. Over the years, she has become the heart of her pharmacy team, managing billing, ordering, insurance claims, and training new staff—all while maintaining an uncanny ability to anticipate what pharmacists and patients need before they ask.

Her coworkers say she is the glue that holds the day together: quick to problem-solve, patient with new hires, and steady in even the busiest moments. One float pharmacist summed it up perfectly, "I'd fill in anytime—if Jessie's there to guide me."

Outstanding Industry Salesperson of the Year Jay Yungbluth



Strong partnerships between pharmacy and industry are vital to advancing care, and Jay Yungbluth embodies that partnership. Jay's thoughtful approach and unwavering reliability have made him a trusted collaborator throughout South Dakota.

This year, SDPhA honored Jay for his ongoing sponsorship of the Spring District Meetings, his generous support for professional education, and his constant willingness to go above and beyond his job description.

In an era of rapid change—especially with emerging therapies like GLP-1s—Jay continues to be a calm,

Celebrating EXCELLENCE in SD PHARMACY

professional resource who connects people, answers tough questions, and ensures pharmacists have the tools they need to serve their patients.

Distinguished Young Pharmacist Emily Kappes



Each year, Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company honors one outstanding new practitioner in every state—and this year, South Dakota's Distinguished Young Pharmacist could not be more deserving.

Emily Kappes, a 2016 graduate of South Dakota State University, has become a cornerstone of her small-town community as a pharmacist in Groton. Known for her kindness and precision, she approaches every patient with compassion and genuine care. Her nominator and employer wrote, "She is an outstanding young pharmacist... friendly, efficient, and deeply compassionate. The customers—young and old—love her."

Outside the pharmacy, Emily pours that same energy into her community. She serves as superintendent of St. John's Lutheran Sunday School, directs Vacation Bible School, and has even served on the Groton City Council—proving that leadership and service go hand in hand.

In every arena, Emily demonstrates the knowledge, heart, and commitment that define our profession.

Bowl of Hygeia Award Lori Giedt



If the Bowl of Hygeia honors community service and the highest ideals of pharmacy, Lori Giedt's career is a master class in both.

A proud graduate of the SDSU College of Pharmacy, Lori began her career at Volk's Drug in Groton in 1975 under the mentorship of Bob Volk. Twenty years later, she purchased the business—transforming it into the beloved Lori's Pharmacy, where she has served faithfully for three decades.

Lori is known not only for her deep clinical knowledge but for her personal devotion to her patients. She's the pharmacist who answers late-night calls, who leaves a round of golf mid-swing to help someone in need, and who knows her patients' families by name.

Her community leadership extends far beyond the counter: the Jaycee-ettes, Kiwanis, American Legion Auxiliary, Church Belle Choir, Groton Chamber of Commerce, Snow Queen Committee, and Groton Baseball Foundation have all benefited from her time and support.

Hustead Award (SD Pharmacist of the Year) Kirk Wilson



Kirk Wilson's name is synonymous with dedication. A 1966 SDSU graduate, Kirk began his career at Martin Drug and Mercantile in 1968—and he's still there more than 55 years later, now as owner.

Few areas of the state are as rural or underserved as the Rosebud District, yet Kirk has been a steady presence, ensuring access to care through decades of industry evolution. He's been at every SDPhA convention for more than 40 years, an enduring supporter of both his community and his profession.

Kirk's service extends beyond pharmacy: he has served on the Bennett County School Board, Hospital Board, Mental Health Board, and as Executive Director of the Southwest South Dakota Medical Development Corporation—not to mention time on the Martin City Council. His enduring service and consistent presence have set a high standard for dedication within the profession.

Honorary Lifetime Membership Robert "Bob" Riter



For the first time in SDPhA history, the association presented an Honorary Lifetime Membership—a fitting tribute to someone who has shaped the organization for over 30 years.

Robert "Bob" Riter may not be a pharmacist, but his impact on South Dakota pharmacy is immeasurable. As a trusted advisor, steadfast advocate, general legal counsel and lobbyist, he has helped SDPhA navigate everything from legislative reform of the association to practice modernization.

Known for his diplomacy, fairness, and wisdom, Bob has challenged leaders to think bigger and aim higher—always with the best interests of pharmacists and patients in mind. His influence can be seen in the very structure and stability of today's SDPhA.

Executive Director Amanda Bacon summed it up beautifully: "Bob has left a permanent mark on this profession and this association—and it is our great honor to recognize him in this way."

Closing Reflections

From rising stars to seasoned mentors, from the pharmacy bench to city councils, these honorees represent the very best of South Dakota pharmacy. Their collective work reminds us that our greatest strength lies in our people—and in the passion, humor, and heart they bring to everything they do.

**Congratulations once again to all
our 2025 SDPhA Award Recipients!**





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President's PERSPECTIVE



Chelsea L. Conway, PharmD, BCCP // SDPhA Board President



Onward and Upward – When I think about where we've been and where we're headed, I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of pride and hope. Last year, our unofficial theme was Survive and Advance. It fit the moment. We were steadying ourselves, rebuilding, and proving once again that South Dakota pharmacists can weather any

challenge when we stand together.

This year, it feels different. The energy has shifted. The word that keeps coming to mind is possibility. We are ready to move onward and upward.

I'm honored to serve as president of this Association and proud to represent such a strong, compassionate, and resilient group of professionals. Whether you're serving patients in a community pharmacy, rounding in a hospital, teaching the next generation, or working behind the scenes to improve systems, each of you plays a vital role in caring for patients and supporting the health of South Dakota. Your dedication, creativity, and commitment to patient care inspire me every day.

My own journey to this point has been shaped by people who believed in me and by a deep love for this profession. From my early days as a pharmacy technician in a grocery store chain pharmacy, to staffing and floating in community practice, to shifting into hospital pharmacy and discovering my passion for cardiology and leadership, I've been fortunate to learn from incredible mentors and colleagues along the way. That's one of the things that makes this profession so special: we lift each other up.

As we look to the year ahead, my goal is to continue that spirit of growth and connection. We will build on the strong foundation set by those before us, continue to engage our students and new practitioners, and support one another as we navigate a rapidly changing healthcare landscape.

I'm excited for what's to come, because I know the strength of this team. We've done the hard work to survive and advance. The road ahead is full of possibility.

Onward and upward,

CHELSEA L. CONWAY

South Dakota's PBM LAWS IN ACTION

With HB 1135 (2023) now the law in South Dakota, our focus has been **assessing how it works in practical application** for regulating Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). We find there are somehow still people who are unaware of the regulations, and the processes for filing a complaint. **SDPhA is planning exciting upcoming educational opportunities** on these topics, and we encourage you to keep an eye out for emails, posts, etc. with more details.

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 collaborated with them to create an intake form that is simple and direct, yet comprehensive.

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).

One especially important note – it is incumbent upon us to report issues and they occur and provide the proper documentation. You need to file complaints **IN WRITING** via the form. A phone call to the DOI is not going to initiate the process. The Division has also hired an investigator and a pharmacist, but the process is still a bit novel for everyone. We are committed to taking the time to work through any issues that arise with the process as we go. 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](#).



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

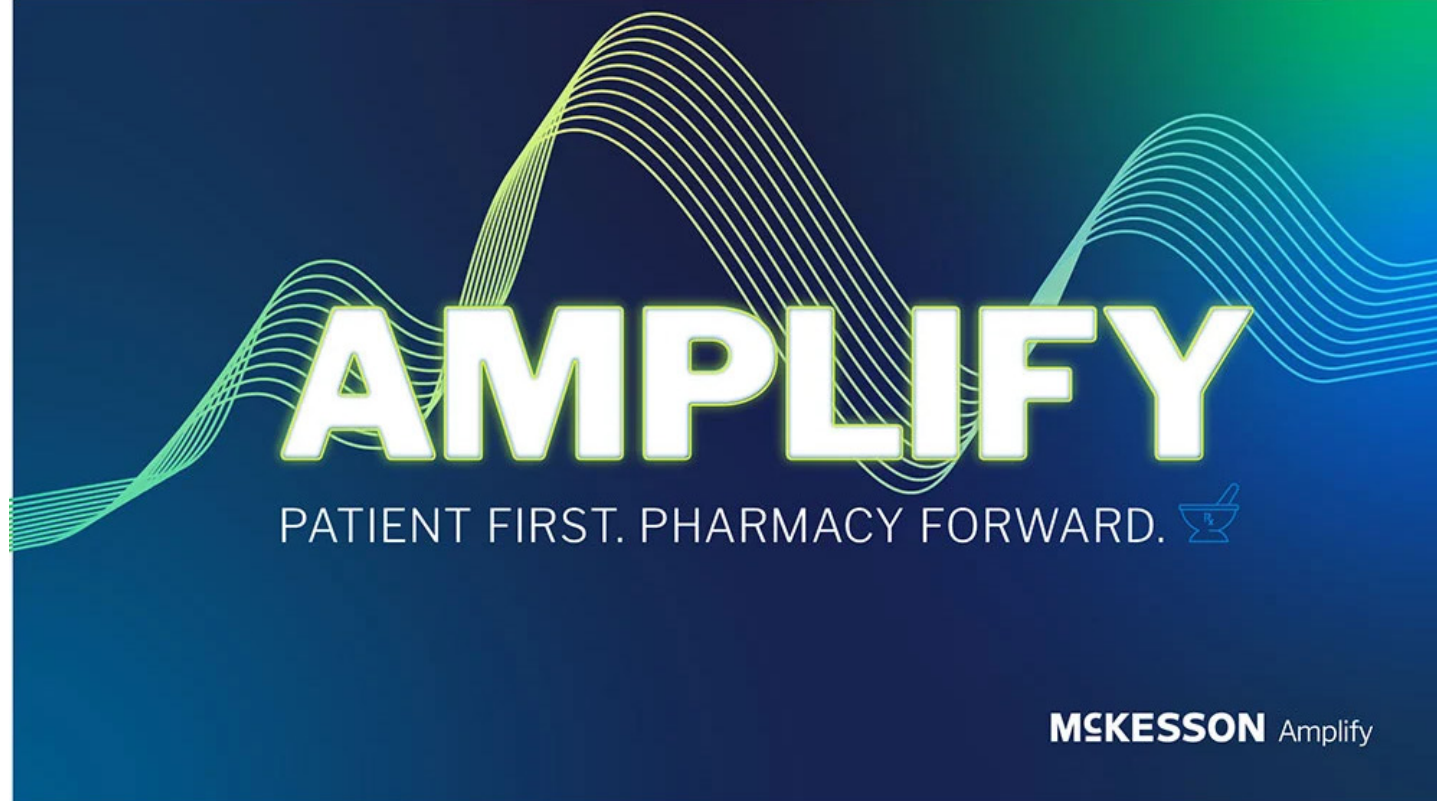
[S.D. Laws 58-18-37](#)

Any Willing Pharmacy

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

Not less reimbursement than PBM-owned pharmacies

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



SDPhA Receives 2026 Funding from McKesson Amplify Program

We are thrilled to announce that SDPhA has been selected to receive funding through the McKesson Amplify program for calendar year 2026. This generous support from McKesson will significantly enhance our ability to advocate for the pharmacy profession and improve patient care across our community.

The McKesson Amplify program is designed to support state pharmacy associations in their efforts to advance the pharmacy profession and create pathways for real, lasting change for independent pharmacies. With this funding, we can expand our advocacy efforts, host quality events, and support initiatives that drive positive change in the pharmacy sector.

Key areas that we will focus on include:

- **Advocacy**
- **Enhanced Communications for Members**
- **Advocacy Education and Events**

This support underscores our shared commitment to elevating the pharmacy profession and ensuring sustainability for the future. We are confident that this funding will help us achieve our mission of delivering exceptional care to our patients and our communities.

We once again extend our heartfelt thanks to McKesson for their commitment to independent pharmacies and their generous support through the McKesson Amplify program. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the pharmacy profession and the communities we serve.



SD BOARD of PHARMACY

Tyler Laetch, PharmD // Executive Director

The South Dakota Board of Pharmacy would like to welcome each of you to the 139th SDPhA Annual Meeting. We are sorry our office was unable to attend this year. We have a conflict, and we are currently in Chicago at NABP headquarters reviewing the thousands of MPJE questions that are in the test bank for the South Dakota version of the test.

As you are well aware by now, there was legislation that was passed this year that impacted our office. This legislation gave us a chance to clean up the pharmacy statutes and again a rules package this year that was completed this summer. The new rules go into effect on September 15th. Please see the updates on our website. The work is not quite done, and we are working with the Department of Health and the Legislative Review Council to do a small clean-up on clarification points. Hopefully, this will finalize our cleanup and will help us in our mission to protect the public.

Change can be difficult, but we always try to remind ourselves that change can be a positive thing. We were notified last year that our licensing vendor will be phasing out our current platform. What that means for us is a big change in the office. We are currently in the process of getting bids for the new platform and hope to have the bid process and contract done by October this year, and a timeline on when the new platform will be operational. The goal is to have the project completed by June of 2026. More news will come on this as we progress. We hope to have little to no disruption for all our licensees during this process.

This year has gone by so quickly, and every day there are new obstacles to address. We have continued to work on DSCSA and continue to try to figure out what that will look like in the years to come for all of the pharmacy industry. We have dealt with questions about IV hydration clinics, USP compliance questions, and the GLP-1 saga that continues to be a challenge for all of healthcare. The latest issue to hit our office is around the COVID-19 vaccines. We are being asked how the lack of ACIP recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines affects whether they can be given in a pharmacy.

As always, it is great to work with everyone in the pharmacy profession; people of South Dakota are so lucky to have all of you. I want to thank all of you for all the work you do

for all of us in the state, and I look forward to the future of the profession and what will come. Changes will happen, and it is always exciting to think about what will be next.

Board Meeting Dates

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

Respectfully submitted for the Board,

TYLER LAETSCH

BOARD OF PHARMACY MEMBERS

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Student Spotlight

"This scholarship will have a lasting impact on my education and future career in pharmacy. I am incredibly grateful for the support that allows me to serve underserved communities."

—Britney B.
PharmD Candidate
2025 Scholarship Recipient



South Dakota SOCIETY of HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS

Aly Howard, PharmD, MHA // SDSHP President



out for details on Dakota Night!

This last year has been productive and filled with several continuing education and networking opportunities. The 49th Annual SDSHP Conference held this past April in Deadwood was a record-breaking success! We welcomed keynote Rick Melmer, a South Dakota native, who spoke on leading self and others through the utilization of DISC. As part of the conference, our participants took the DISC assessment, and were able to apply learnings throughout their homelife and work teams! Many sessions were different during Conference this past year, and we heard great feedback on all! We continue to try to tailor content to students, residents and pharmacists in any area. Board members inducted during the business meeting included Jenna McGeehon as Past President, Aly Howard as President (inducted during an August Board Meeting), Ryan Waybright as President-Elect, Allison Bich-Hofer as Secretary, Morgan Hemmingson as Treasurer, Amy Heiberger and Holly Flynn as Board-Members-At-Large, Jodi Sterrett as Technician Board Member, and Taylor Haring and Faith Richards as Student Board Members. During the awards ceremony, Linda Oyen was recognized as the 2025 recipient of the Gary W. Karel Lecture Award, a massive honor in her mentor's namesake. In addition to the annual conference, SDSHP also hosted resident CE Conferences and Statewide Pharmacotherapy Forum (SPF) sessions throughout the year.

Highlights from the summer months included the residency conference and GVR Open. The 14th Annual SDSHP Residency Conference took place in mid-July. Pharmacy residents from across the state gathered in Oacoma for a day of networking and to learn about topics that will prove beneficial to them during the year ahead. This year, the keynote speaker featured a non-pharmacist presenter who focused on leadership and self-evolution. We heard great feedback, and plan to continue that theme year over year! We owe a thank you to our outgoing resident liaison, Tara Gilk, for her efforts in planning and coordinating the event! The 23rd Annual GVR Open Society Golf Classic was held at the Rocky Run Golf Course in Dell Rapids, SD this July. It was a great day to golf, while also raising money to support pharmacy student scholarships and student travel to the ASHP Clinical Skills Competition in December.

During the upcoming months, SDSHP will continue to work toward goals and objectives outlined in our strategic plan for the 2025-2026 year, including putting formality around strategic planning, an increased social media presence to drive member engagement, and how to continue to educate our members on the legislative process.

We encourage our members or anyone interested in keeping tabs on SDSHP-related news and upcoming events to follow us on Facebook and our Instagram account, or visiting us at our website (www.sdsph.com).

Gratefully,

ALY HOWARD

COLLEGE of PHARMACY and ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS at SDSU



Dan Hansen, PharmD // Dean and Professor



The College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at South Dakota State University had a successful year, marked by new grants, renovations at the Sioux Falls Metro Center, and notable faculty and student achievements through awards, research presentations, and publications. The college looks forward to continued success

in the coming year.

BIG NEWS

We received our NAPLEX results for our 2025 Pharm.D. graduates, which showed a first-time pass rate of 100%. This made SDSU's one of only two Pharmacy schools to achieve a 100% first-time NAPLEX pass rate in 2025.

Similarly, all nine on-campus MLS students that graduated this spring passed the ASCP board exam on their first try, for a 100% first-time pass rate.

Two of our faculty were honored with major SDPHA awards. First, Emily Van Klompenburg was awarded the Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award in recognition for what she has done to promote the profession of pharmacy and her military service. Second, Jodi Heins was awarded the Hustead Award (Pharmacist of the Year), which is the most prestigious award given out by the Association.

The South Dakota Perinatal Quality Collaborative was founded within our Community Practice Innovation Center. With the founding of the SDPQC, South Dakota became the 50th and final state to have its own Perinatal Quality Collaborative. The SDPQC will begin with the BIRTH-SD work, as well as

seek additional funding for programs to improve the state of perinatal health in South Dakota. One of our faculty, Stephanie Hanson, is the founder and Executive Director.

The Board of Regents accepted our proposal to add the Pharm.D. program to the list of majors included in SD Advantage, effective Summer 2025. This change now makes it more affordable for a student from any SD Advantage state (Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa) to attend pharmacy school at SDSU.

We participated in SDSU's 10th Annual Pack the Pantry Food Drive, and our college received first place, contributing 2377 of the 2823 food items collected!

Renovation of the Sioux Falls Metro Center began. If things go as planned, renovations will be completed in Summer of 2026. Throughout the renovation, the space will continue to serve our faculty and students at its convenient Sioux Falls location!

For the first time, our Community-Based Pharmacy Residency Program has two residents, following the program's expansion. Catherean Thai and Orion McCartney are our newest residents!

Finally, our Respiratory Care program once again received significant recognition of excellence from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). Like last year, our respiratory care team received both the "Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award" and the "President's Award for Excellence in Credentialing Success Award."

FUNDING & GRANTS

Last September, during One Day for STATE, the College received 206 gifts totaling \$127,370, a new record! These funds will make a big impact on all of the programs in our College.

Our START-SD team (whose work focuses prevention, treatment, and recovery of substance use disorder in the state), was awarded a 4-year, \$3 million grant from the Health Resource and Services Administration. The work that will be completed through this grant includes working with three prisons in South Dakota to increase reentry resources and programming for those exiting SD prisons and their loved ones.

Our Medical Laboratory Science program received new, state-of-the-art microscopes and other equipment, thanks to a \$750,000 award from the Centers for Disease Control through the South Dakota Department of Health. The new equipment will make learning more accessible, including facilitating the remote offerings within the MLS program.

FACULTY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

- Faculty from our college have published more than 20 papers in peer-reviewed journals over the past year.
- Josh Reineke was selected to be a member of the 21st cohort of the Academic Leadership Fellows Program through the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.
- The Annual State Conference for Respiratory Therapists was held in October. Marissa Trosen was recognized as the Respiratory Therapist of the Year for the State of SD.
- Hemachand Tummala was elected to be the Chair-Elect of the Pharmaceutics SIG in AACP.
- Jeremy Daniel was selected as a fellow in the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP).
- Chris Robbins was selected for the American Academy of Health Behaviors Research Scholar program.
- Stacy Peters was nominated for a 2025 Sanford Nursing Award in the category of Friend of Nursing.
- Stephanie Hanson and Jim Amell were featured on an episode of "On Call with the Prairie Doc." The focus of the episode was Health Differences vs. Health Disparities.
- Kristy Ullom was elected as the chair-elect of the Administrative and Financial Officers SIG within AACP.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The SDSU Pharmacy program felt an international impact. We had five students join us from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana join us for a few weeks. During their stay, these students participated in different educational and clinical activities during their time here. Additionally, two of our pharmacy students, Sierra Schmidt and Tony Tran, went to Vietnam to participate in a five-week Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience rotation.
- Karabi Saha, a Ph.D. student, earned 3rd place (out of 30 participants) in the University's Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition.
- Fabius (Aime Irabin) (a PhD Candidate) and his PhD advisor Josh Reineke recently had an article titled "Synthesis of immunomodulatory biomimetic lipid polymer hybrid nanoparticles and application of zebrafish larvae in immunomodulation screening" published in the European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
- Our SCAPP Chapter received honors at the APhA annual meeting. They took home 2 regional awards and received 1st Runner-Up in the Division AAA Chapter Achievement Award.
- Students from SCAPP provided free blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes screenings at the Annual Benefits Fair yesterday.
- Students from SCAPP have also been getting involved with the state Department of Health's Cardiovascular Collaborative, which is likely to lead to a formal partnership between the Collaborative and our SCAPP chapter.
- One of our Doctor of Pharmacy graduates and a recipient of the Avera Wokini Scholarship, Jessica Pfiefer, was recognized.

NEW POSITIONS & HIRES

- Dr. Mike Farley began his appointment as an associate professor and the new Gary & Sharon Van Riper Scholar of Practice Innovation.
- Steph Bebensee began her appointment as the academic advising coordinator.
- Dr. Vicki Howe began her appointment as an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Best regards,

DAN HANSEN

SDSU Student Collaboration for the ADVANCEMENT and PROMOTION of PHARMACY

Ryan Johnson // SCAPP/APhA-ASP SDSU Chapter President



The Student Collaboration for the Advancement and Promotion of Pharmacy (SCAPP) looks forward to another exciting year at SDSU. With new opportunities for events and collaboration as well as expanding on successful events in the past, we hope to make this year our best one yet. These events, however, would not be possible without your

support. Through our numerous pharmacist volunteers at our patient care events, speakers at chapter meetings, and generous funding for community outreach events and educational opportunities, we would like to thank the SDPhA Board, the SDSU College of Pharmacy, and the pharmacists across South Dakota for your continuous support of our chapter activities.



fun on the lake. Earlier in the summer, Maggie Kamnikar, our chapter president-elect, and I had the opportunity to attend the Student Leadership Institute held by APhA-ASP in Washington, D.C. At this conference, we networked with student pharmacists from across the U.S., met inspiring pharmacist leaders, and even got to advocate in state senator and house representative offices over hot-topic pharmacy bills being discussed on Capitol Hill.

Since the start of the school year, we have held our chapter membership week, known as SCAPP Week, to encourage student involvement in our chapter and organize fun events such as a ladder golf tournament where

the winners got to "pie" a professor, a cookout meet-and-greet, and donuts delivered to our professional student classrooms. Through the recruitment efforts of our leadership team, we were able to rally 135 students to our first chapter meeting and anticipate our largest group of SCAPP members registered for this school year.



Before the school year even began, our chapter leadership has been hard at work planning, connecting, and brainstorming. In August, our executive board met at our faculty advisor Dr. Meyer's cabin for our annual exec board retreat where we were able to grow as a team and have lots of



We also held our 9th annual Pharmacy at the Fair event in Huron, where we conducted free health screenings and reached a total of 155 patients screened. This included 147 blood pressure, 136 blood glucose, and 130 cholesterol screenings performed by our SCAPP members. This event had a great turnout and a positive outcome for both our chapter members and for the South Dakota community.

Looking ahead to upcoming events, we are excited to host our annual Walk for Hope 5K held in Brookings on October 26th. Proceeds for the event will go to the Sioux Falls-based charity, Emily's Hope, an organization focused on spreading mental health awareness and removing the stigma of substance use disorders. We are also excited to continue the Pine Ridge patient care experience, making our College of Pharmacy float for the Hobo Day parade, and many other new events put on by our exec board and committee co-chairs. We hope to see you at our upcoming events this year!

Sincerely,

RYAN JOHNSON

SDPhA JOINS NATIONAL CALL for SWIFT ACTION on MEDICARE DRUG PROGRAM

The rollout of the Inflation Reduction Act-mandated Medicare drug-price negotiation program continues to create major challenges for pharmacies. Enrollment with the designated Facilitator is required to dispense selected drugs—but reimbursement rates and cash-flow gaps are leaving many pharmacies in the red.

Recent National Community Pharmacy Association (NCPA) analysis estimates annual pharmacy losses of **\$40–46k** on average, with weekly shortfalls approaching **\$10k** as pharmacies front acquisition costs while awaiting manufacturer refunds. ([ncpa.org](https://www.ncpa.org))

In June, **NCPA and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)** jointly issued recommendations to pharmaceutical manufacturers urging transparency, timely refunds, and protections for dispensing pharmacies under the new model. ([ncpa.org](https://www.ncpa.org))

The **South Dakota Pharmacists Association (SDPhA)** also signed on to a recent national letter to **Dr. Mehmet Oz**, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, reinforcing those same concerns and urging swift action to protect patient access and pharmacy sustainability.

Next Steps: Verify your Facilitator enrollment, review contract terms for drug reimbursement, and build cash-flow considerations into your 2026 projections. Watch NCPA, ASHP and SDPhA for more resources and information.



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PTU is the first web-based learning and education solution to support training requirements across the U.S. Pharmacies use PTU to facilitate and track hands-on learning in a convenient, online format that leverages a combination of technology and tools.

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- Meet state and national training requirements across all locations with optimal efficiency
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- Monitor training progress with our easy-to-use administrator dashboards
- Quickly prepare new pharmacy technicians for work with entry-level, PTU 101
- Utilize Knowledge Assessment to gauge competency in key areas and on-board technicians quickly
- Keep pharmacy technicians current with the latest guidelines

Curriculum Built to Meet Your Organizational Needs

- Tailored curriculum, program components, and practice setting-specific courses
- National Standards program to meet state-specific compliance requirements
- Convenient, cost-effective online courses, including real-world scenarios, instructor feedback, and rich media content
- Completion of the assessment will identify the specific PTU 101 courses that need support

PTU 101

Designed for technicians seeking certification, this program offers 130+ hours of didactic training.

PTU National Standards

Designed for technicians seeking ASHP-ACPE accreditation, this program offers an entry-level program (400+ hours) and an advanced-level program (600+ hours).

Knowledge Assessment

Leveraging the support of PTU 101, Knowledge Assessment gauges technician competency in over 10 categories including pharmacology, calculations, laws and regulations, anatomy, compounding, and more.

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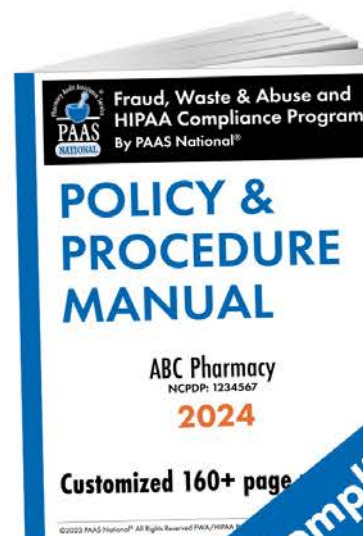
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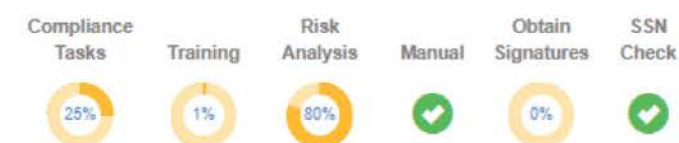
- Get compliant with USP 800 standards
- Customized USP 800 Policy & Procedure Manual to reflect new requirements
 - Guidelines for proper handling hazardous drug (HD) in workflow
 - Reviews staff responsibilities for receiving, preparing and administering NIOSH-classified HD
- HD Risk Assessment tailored to your pharmacy for annual review
- Annual USP 800 training for staff

* excludes HD compounding pharmacies



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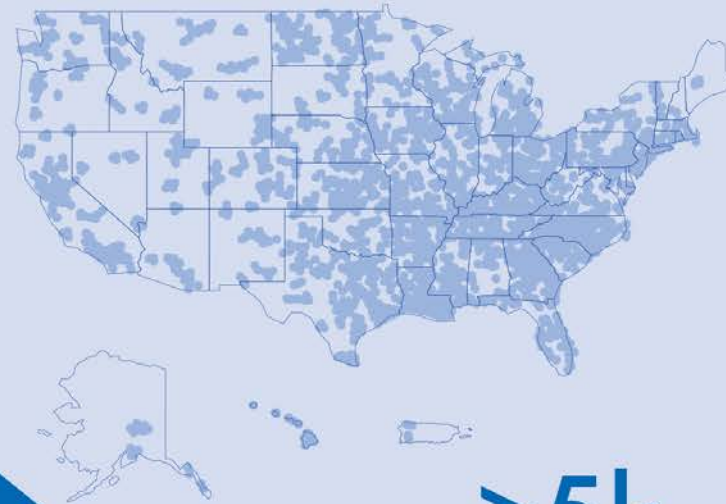
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- FWA/HIPAA membership entitles a pharmacy up to 20 employees. Additional employees are \$15, billed annually.

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Illegible Signature? Auditors Are Taking Note!

A recent audit trend shows that some major PBMs are challenging the perceived legitimacy of patient signatures. In particular, Humana and OptumRx have been citing signature logs as discrepant when there is only a line, squiggle, printed first or last name, or initials in lieu of a “proper signature”. The auditor asserts that the pharmacy, not the patient, signed these prescriptions out, negating the proof that the patient confirmed receipt of the medication.

Humana uses the discrepancy code “ISL” and notes that the “signature log sent does not contain a signature.” OptumRx uses the discrepancy code “2B” and notes that “no signature...present on received receipt/log.” While some avenues exist for appeal, it’s predicated on the PBM and best to avoid this nuisance altogether.

PAAS National® also continues to see audit trouble when pharmacy staff sign “delivery/DEL/mail” when delivering or mailing out the prescription to a patient or “DT/drive thru” when the patient picks up their medication from the drive thru (or curbside). If a pin pad needs to be signed out in this fashion to complete an electronic transaction, it’s advisable to collect a manual signature from the patient for your records. Many POS systems allow you to scan these signatures back into the system for electronic recordkeeping.

PAAS Tips:

- Remind staff that signatures are required for all in-store pick-up and delivered prescriptions
- Obtain complete signatures from patients/representatives whenever possible
- If a patient refuses to sign with a complete signature, consider the following:
 - Explain that their insurance, not the pharmacy, requires a legible signature for proof of receipt
 - This can be an opportunity to highlight (in a non-disparaging way) that PBMs are ruthless on audits and that a missing signature means you could be out hundreds or thousands of dollars each time they refuse to sign
 - If a patient still refuses to sign for expensive medications, you could offer to reverse the claim and bill it without their insurance
- Signature logs should contain four elements:
 - Prescription number
 - Date of service or refill number
 - Date of pick-up/date received
 - Patient’s/Patient representative’s signature
- **Pharmacy staff should NOT** sign/print the patient’s name for them, use their initials, or jot a line or squiggle to give the appearance of the patient signing
- If delivering a prescription, delivery logs should contain:
 - Patient’s name
 - Prescription number
 - Date of service or refill number
 - Date delivered (handwritten by the person receiving the delivery or electronically time-stamped when signing)
 - Delivery address
 - Patient’s/Patient representative’s signature

By Trenton Thiede, PharmD, MBA, President at PAAS National®, expert third party audit assistance, FWA/HIPAA and USP 800 compliance. Copyright © 2025 PAAS National, LLC. Unauthorized use or distribution prohibited. All use subject to terms at <https://paasnational.com/terms-of-use/>.



USP 800: What Community Pharmacies Need to Know

Most community pharmacies don’t compound with hazardous drugs, but that doesn’t mean you’re off the hook when it comes to USP 800 compliance. This standard, [USP General Chapter <800> Hazardous Drugs: Handling in Healthcare Settings](#)¹, applies to anyone who receives, stores, or dispenses hazardous drugs (HDs). And yes, that includes community pharmacies.

What Makes a Drug Hazardous?

[NIOSH](#)² defines a drug as hazardous if it’s linked to cancer, reproductive harm, organ damage, or genetic effects. There are over 250 medications that need to be handled safely to reduce potential harm to employees including medications commonly stocked in community pharmacies such as: azathioprine, carbamazepine, colchicine, finasteride, methotrexate, phenytoin, topiramate, warfarin, as well as hormone products including oral contraceptives.

Key Steps for Compliance

1. Create and maintain a **Hazardous Drug List** and review it annually
2. Develop written **Policies and Procedures** that outline your work practices for handling hazardous drugs
3. Perform and document **Risk Assessments** for each hazardous drug/dosage form
4. Purchase or create a **Spill Kit** to handle spills safely
5. Wear **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** as determined by your policies and risk assessment
6. **Train** your staff on safe handling practices, PPE, and spills (complete prior to handling hazardous drugs and then annually)

Why It Matters

A trace of powder left on a counting tray may seem harmless, but repeated exposure can cause long-term health risks. USP 800 isn’t just red tape, it’s about protecting your pharmacy team while they are handling hazardous drugs. By taking small but consistent steps – hazardous drug list, risk assessments, PPE, training, and spill planning – community pharmacies can stay compliant and create a safer workplace for everyone.

PAAS Tips:

- Pharmacies interested in a turnkey USP 800 Compliance Program should review program details on the [PAAS National® website](#)³ or call (608) 873-1342 for additional information.
 - The PAAS program is not intended for pharmacies that are compounding with hazardous drugs.

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

References:

1. <https://www.usp.org/compounding/general-chapter-hazardous-drugs-handling-healthcare>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2025-103/default.html>
3. <https://paasnational.com/usp800/>

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OBITUARIES

SD Pharmacists Association

Sherree Dee Schmiedt



Sherree Dee Schmiedt, 94, died Tuesday, July 8th, from heart disease. Sherree D was born March 4, 1931 to George and Mariam Olson (Danielson) of Los Angeles, California. Mariam and Sherree D moved back to Centerville, SD when Sherree D was very young, after George passed in an unfortunate accident. Mariam later married Jim Campbell, a local telephone lineman. Sherree D graduated from Centerville High School in 1949. Sherree D was married to Stanford (Stan) Schmiedt on March 19, 1950.

Sherree D and Stan moved to Brookings, SD where Sherree D was a homemaker raising their son, Dean, while Stan attended the College of Pharmacy at SDSU. They moved to Sisseton, SD and lived there for about 2 1/2 years while Stan had his first job at the local pharmacy. They moved back to Centerville in 1955 when Stan joined his father in the drugstore. Sherree D and Stan purchased the store from him in 1961. Together, they owned and operated Schmiedt Drug until 2002 when they sold the pharmacy part of the store. They continued to operate the store as Schmiedt Gifts until September 2003. They privately opened a museum located next to the drugstore, which contained a wealth of antiques and historical items of local interest. Sherree D was passionate about the museum and historical preservation. She donated most of the contents of the museum for the new museum, located at the Centerville Development Corporation office building.

Sherree D was very involved in community affairs and Scandia Lutheran Church. She was instrumental in developing and writing the "Blue Book" of the history of Centerville. In 2021, she received the "2021 Community & Economic Development Partner of the Year" award from the Centerville Development Corporation. She was a member of Eastern Star serving in numerous officer positions at high levels. She was an excellent resource to anyone seeking information about Centerville. Her deep knowledge base and associated stories will be missed.

Sherree D was preceded in death by her parents and Stan. Grateful for having shared her life are her two sons Dean and his wife Karleen of Fort Ripley, MN, Robert and his wife Monica of Sioux Falls, SD; one daughter Barbara and her husband Kevin Wurtz of Elk Point, SD; five grandchildren: Kelly Schmiedt, Allison Akin (Sterne Akin), Chris Wurtz (Jen Wurtz), Kimberly Sundling (Michael Sundling), and Michael Wurtz (Mikalya Wurtz) and five great grandchildren Ben Akin, Anniston Akin, Sammy Akin, Aerie Wurtz and Edison Wurtz plus a host of relatives and friends.



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