

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

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TO: EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – STATE BOARDS OF PHARMACY
FROM: Carmen A. Catizone, Executive Director/Secretary
DATE: November 9, 2006
RE: **Disposal of Patient Information**

In August, 1999 NABP was provided with information from the media that pharmacies were not taking the necessary and required steps to properly dispose of patient information (medication vials, labels, patient information materials, etc.). At the time, NABP shared the findings and report of the Task Force on Recycling Safety Closure Prescription Containers.

It has come to our attention through the efforts of NBC Affiliate, Channel 13 Indiana reporter Bob Segall, that the problem has resurfaced or pharmacies have become lax in their management of patient data and information. Mr Segall found numerous examples in pharmacies across the country of patient information discarded with the routine trash and left unsecured in outside disposal areas. The findings were troubling and something that should have been addressed in the best interest of patient safety and confidentiality.

NABP is alerting the boards of this situation and asking your assistance in notifying pharmacists and pharmacies about the need to protect and maintain patient confidentiality through proper and appropriate disposal policies and procedures.

If you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your assistance.

CC/mwg

cc: Executive Committee