

# TITLE 21 - OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

## CHAPTER 46 - PHARMACY

*Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the Board of Pharmacy intends to adopt the rule cited as 21 NCAC 46 .1420.*

**Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c):** <https://www.ncbop.org/rulemakings.htm>

**Proposed Effective Date:** August 1, 2026

**Public Hearing:**

**Date:** May 19, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Location:** North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, 6015 Farrington Road, Suite 201, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

**Reason for Proposed Action:** *The Board has proposed adopting a rule to accommodate standardized orders in health care pharmacy settings (such as hospitals and long-term care facilities). Standardized orders are ones that allow a health care facility pharmacist-manager to establish criteria for ordering medications that are determined to be safe for all patients meeting those criteria, regardless of any drugs, supplements or other substances that might have been consumer by those patients. Because of the absence of any relevant distinction among those patients, the medications would be able to be dispensed without patient-specific drug regimen review being performed. This rule was the product of study by a working group that included members from a wide variety of health care pharmacy settings.*

**Comments may be submitted to:** Jay Campbell, North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, 6015 Farrington Road, Suite 201, Chapel Hill, NC 27517; email [ncboprulemaking@ncbop.org](mailto:ncboprulemaking@ncbop.org)

**Comment period ends:** June 15, 2026

**Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review:** If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit a written objection to the Rules Review Commission. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive letters via U.S. Mail, private courier service, or hand delivery to 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, or via email to [oah.rules@oah.nc.gov](mailto:oah.rules@oah.nc.gov). If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please review 26 NCAC 05 .0110 or call a Commission staff attorney at 984-236-1850.

**Fiscal impact. Does any rule or combination of rules in this notice create an economic impact? Check all that apply.**

- State funds affected
- Local funds affected
- Substantial economic impact ( $\geq$  \$1,000,000)
- Approved by OSBM
- No fiscal note required

### SECTION .1400 - HOSPITALS: OTHER HEALTH FACILITIES

#### 21 NCAC 46 .1420      STANDARDIZED ORDERS

(a) This Rule applies if a Health Care Facility has developed a set of standardized orders for its patients. As used in this Rule, standardized orders are pre-established written protocols that allow authorized practitioners at the Health Care Facility to administer medications to a patient who meets defined criteria.

(b) A pharmacist-manager of Health Care Facility Pharmacy may establish which of those standardized orders are safe and effective for all patients presenting a set of predetermined criteria established by the pharmacist-manager. Those orders must be safe and effective for all patients presenting those criteria, regardless of any drugs, supplements or other substances that might have been consumed by any patient. Any standardized orders so designated by the pharmacist-manager may be dispensed by the pharmacy to a Health Care Facility patient without any patient-specific drug regimen review being performed by the pharmacist.

(c) The pharmacist-manager must maintain policies and procedures sufficient to identify the standardized orders and the criteria for issuing those standardized orders, as well as the process by which those orders are to be dispensed. The pharmacist-manager must also keep records of all dispensing pursuant to this Rule, including the authorized practitioner's determination that the standardized order was appropriate and documentation that any criteria have been met.

(d) This Rule does not apply to outpatient pharmacies or to drugs dispensed pursuant to 21 NCAC 46 .1415.

*History Note:*      Authority G.S. 90-18.1; 90-18.2; 90-85.6; 90-85-21; 90-85.26; 90-85.33; 90-85.34;  
Eff. August 1, 2026.