

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF PHARMACY

*Newsletter to Promote Pharmacy
and Drug Law Compliance.*

Item 2510 – Board Introduces Changes to the Transfer-Of-Ownership Pharmacy Permitting Process

Rule 21 North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) 46.1603 requires a pharmacy to obtain a new permit prior to the closing of a qualifying transfer-of-ownership transaction. Comprehensive information and instructions on the transfer-of-ownership process – and the consequences of not following the process – are found in the frequently asked questions (FAQs) located [here](#).

However, the challenge of maintaining the continuity of operations frequently arises when transferring ownership. The new pharmacy needs to have a permit number assigned to complete tasks such as transferring a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration and enrolling with third-party payer programs. Before the recently introduced changes, a new pharmacy permit number was

not assigned until the close of the transfer-of-ownership transaction, creating the possibility of the new pharmacy delaying operations until the completion of these tasks.

To minimize potential disruptions, North Carolina Board of Pharmacy staff has programmed changes to the transfer-of-ownership process whereby, after the review and approval of a transfer-of-ownership application, the new pharmacy's permit number is assigned provisionally. The pharmacy may use the permit number to complete tasks for continuity of operations. Once the transfer-of-ownership transaction closes, the "provisional" status is removed, and the new pharmacy may begin to practice under that permit number. This [guidance](#) explains the what, why, and how of the revised process.

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Item 2511 – DEA Delays Effective Date of Two New Rules Concerning Telemedicine-Based CS Prescribing

DEA has delayed the effective date of two final rules, titled “Expansion of Buprenorphine Treatment via Telemedicine Encounter” and “Continuity of Care via Telemedicine for Veterans Affairs

Patients,” to December 31, 2025. More information can be found [here](#).

As a result of this delay, the “[Third Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities](#)

[for Prescription of Controlled Medications](#)” remains in effect and continues to allow practitioners to prescribe controlled substances (CS) via telemedicine through December 31, 2025.

Item 2512 – FDA Warns of Counterfeit Ozempic in the US Drug Supply Chain

Novo Nordisk, the manufacturer of Ozempic®, has identified several hundred units of counterfeit Ozempic (semaglutide) injection 1 mg products that have been illicitly distributed outside of its secure and authorized supply chain within the United States. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) confirmed the seizure of some identified counterfeit units on April 9, 2025, and issued a [public warning](#) to both consumers and health care professionals concerning this counterfeit product. The potential for further circulation of these dangerous counterfeit products remains a serious concern.

The counterfeit products bear the lot number PAR0362 and a

serial number commencing with the initial eight digits 51746517. While the lot number PAR0362 is authentic and associated with genuine Ozempic, it is exclusively when this specific lot number is found in combination with a serial number starting with 51746517 that the product is confirmed to be counterfeit, must immediately be removed from circulation, and must not be dispensed under any circumstances.

The precise contents and safety profile of the seized counterfeit products are currently under rigorous investigation by both FDA and Novo Nordisk. However, based on previous incidents involving counterfeit medications, the use of these products carries

substantial and unknown health risks for patients. Notably, a prior counterfeit Ozempic incident in December 2023 revealed the presence of counterfeit needles lacking confirmed sterility, thereby introducing a significant risk of infection.

Thorough visual examination of the seized counterfeit product has revealed that this fraudulent activity extends beyond the medication itself. Critical components, such as the needles, pen labels, external packaging, and the accompanying product inserts intended for both patients and health care professionals, have also been expertly counterfeited.

Item 2513 – Reminder: Board Rule Requirements When a Pharmacy Closes Unexpectedly During Its Normal, Posted Operating Hours

Rule 21 NCAC 46.2516 requires notification to patients and the Board when a pharmacy closes unexpectedly during its normal, posted operating hours. This [FAQs document](#) provides detailed guidance and instruction. Here are a few specific reminders:

- The pharmacist manager is responsible for ensuring that

patient-facing signage and instructions are posted, as well as for notifying the Board.

- If the unplanned closure is expected to be for two hours or less, no signage or Board notification is required.
- Signage alerting the public of the unplanned closure,

expected duration of the closure, and instructions for a patient to obtain a transfer of their prescription(s) to another pharmacy must be prominently displayed.

Item 2514 – An Evergreen Warning: Scam Calls Purporting to Be From Board of Pharmacy Personnel

Board staff reiterates its frequently published warning concerning scam calls to pharmacists and pharmacies purporting to be from Board investigators/inspectors. The Board's telephone number, 919/246-1050, is often what appears on caller ID. Recently, such calls inform the pharmacist that they are the target of an investigation involving illegal drug activity, and the caller sometimes

claims to be part of a larger Federal Bureau of Investigation, State Bureau of Investigation, DEA, or other agency investigation. The details vary, but these calls appear to be an attempt to get the recipient to disclose personal information.

Board staff reminds practitioners that the [names of all the Board's investigators are listed on its website](#), and, if they are unsure

or suspicious when contacted by someone claiming to be a Board staff member (whether by phone, email, or other communication), they should contact the Board immediately. To be sure, Board staff frequently contacts pharmacists and pharmacy staff on all manner of issues. But again, if you are suspicious about the identity of the caller, please reach out to the Board office directly.



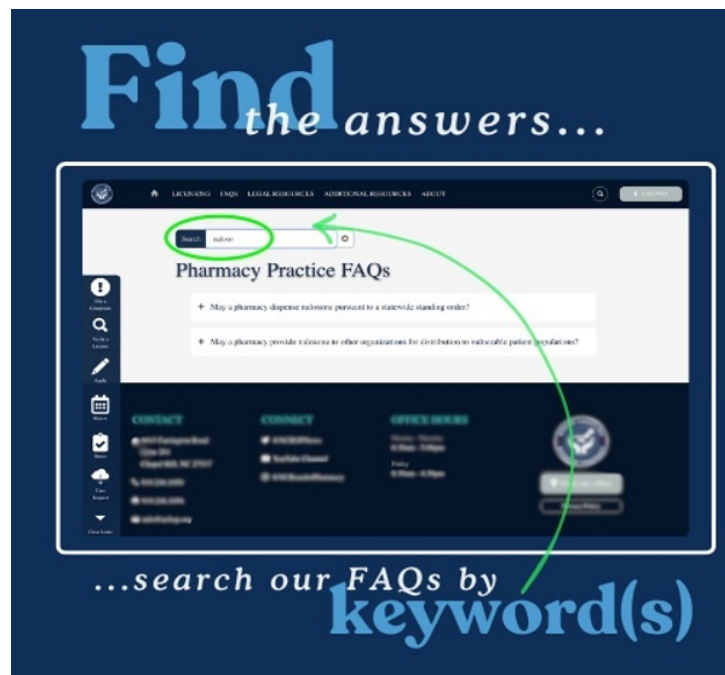
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Item 2515 – The Board Website’s FAQs Section Is Keyword Searchable

The Board’s revamped website – www.ncbop.org – was launched last summer and contains a substantially updated and consolidated **FAQs section**. This section is keyword searchable. Terms entered into the search bar on the FAQ page will only provide responses from the respective section. The entire website is keyword searchable from the home page, but using the FAQ-specific search bar is a much more effective way to find the answers you need.



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