

Board of Pharmacy Policy Statement: Nonresident Pharmacies

Background

With recent changes to Pharmacy Law effected by Assembly Bill 1503 (Berman, Chapter 196, Statutes of 2025), the California State Board of Pharmacy is releasing this policy statement to remind licensees about new legal provisions applicable to nonresident pharmacies and to provide guidance on the Board's expectations regarding compliance with the new requirements. This policy statement is conveying the Board's current priorities and is not an exhaustive list of legal requirements.

Licensees and other interested parties are strongly encouraged to review the California Pharmacy Law and the Board's regulations to gain a full understanding of legal requirements.

Pharmacist-in-Charge (PIC) Requirements

Effective July 1, 2026, as a prerequisite to registering with the Board and ongoing licensure, a nonresident pharmacy must identify a California-licensed pharmacist to be proposed to serve as the PIC. The designated PIC must be:

- (1) employed by and working at the nonresident pharmacy, and
- (2) fully vested with all authority necessary to ensure that the nonresident pharmacy's California operations are compliant with California law.

The Board notes that, as a policy matter, it will not require the individual designated as the PIC for California operations to be the PIC on record for the resident state. The Board further notes that, on and after July 1, 2026, a nonresident pharmacy may not ship prescriptions, or provide any pharmacy-related service, to California patients unless the PIC is licensed in California.¹

During the transition to the new PIC licensure requirement, the Board does not intend to proactively restrict or interrupt the provision of otherwise lawful pharmacy services by a nonresident pharmacy whose PIC has not yet obtained California licensure. The Board seeks to promote compliance through education where possible and will consider good faith efforts undertaken to comply with the new California licensure requirement in its assessment of potential violations of Pharmacy Law.

Compliance with California Law

¹ See [Business and Professions Code section 4112 \(operative on July 1, 2026\)](#), subdivision (g).

Nonresident pharmacies are bound by California laws by doing business in California pursuant to a California license.² While the Board believes nonresident pharmacies have a general understanding of many of the compliance and enforcement priorities³ of the Board, the Board would like to highlight some specific priority areas to assist nonresident pharmacies in understanding some additional California-specific legal requirements:

- Delays in Therapy: [Business and Professions Code section 733](#) generally provides that a licentiate shall not obstruct a patient in obtaining a prescription drug or device that has been legally prescribed or ordered for that patient.
- Quality Assurance Programs: [Business and Professions Code section 4125](#) requires every pharmacy to establish a quality assurance program as specified. California Code of Regulations, title 16, [section 1711](#) further defines requirements that apply to quality assurance programs.
- Operational Standards and Security: California Code of Regulations, title 16, [section 1714](#), requires each pharmacy licensed by the Board to maintain its facilities, space, fixtures, and equipment so that drugs are safely and properly prepared, maintained, secured, and distributed.

Inspection Expectations

Effective July 1, 2026, the Board may inspect a nonresident pharmacy.⁴ In addition to paying fees required by California law, the nonresident pharmacy shall deposit, when notified by the Board, a reasonable amount, as determined by the Board, necessary to cover the Board's estimated reasonable costs of performing the inspection.

During the inspection process, a nonresident pharmacy is required to have certain records and documents readily available for inspectors to review. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. California medication labeling and patient communication records such as written notification for consultation when drugs are delivered to California patients.
2. Past inspection reports. Such reports would include reports of inspections performed by any regulatory or accreditation agency.
3. Master list of pharmacists involved in dispensing medications for California patients.

² See [Board of Pharmacy Precedential Decision No. 2019-01](#); see also [Business and Professions Code section 4303](#), subdivision (b).

³ Examples include compounding requirements, patient-centered labeling requirements, California Medication Error Reporting (CAMER) requirements under Business and Professions Code section 4113.1, patient consultation requirements, and automatic refill provisions.

⁴ See [Business and Professions Code section 4112 \(operative on July 1, 2026\)](#), subdivision (k).

4. Master list of pharmacy technicians involved in dispensing medications for California patients, if applicable.
5. Acquisition and disposition records of drugs dispensed to California patients. (Note: California law establishes a requirement to retain records on the licensed premises in a readily retrievable format and for a period of three years from the date of making.⁵)
6. Accompanying records or systems ensuring Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) compliance.
7. California Medication Error Reporting (CAMER) reports for errors related to prescriptions dispensed to California residents.
8. Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) reports for controlled substances dispensed to California patients.
9. Policies and procedures. (Note: Several provisions of California law require maintenance of policies and procedures.⁶)

Please visit the Board's website, www.pharmacy.ca.gov, for additional information and resources.

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⁵ See Business and Professions Code sections [4081](#), [4105](#), and [4333](#).

⁶ See, e.g., [Business and Professions Code section 4081](#).