

Frequently Asked Questions – Assembly Bill 1286 (Haney, Chapter 470, Statutes of 2023)

Assembly Bill 1286, which became effective January 1, 2024, includes several patient safety provisions. Given the encompassing nature of the measure, the Board is releasing this FAQ to assist licensees with understanding the bill. To facilitate use of this document, short titles will be used to reference the various topics. **Please note this is a dynamic document and may be updated periodically to reflect changes or new information.**

Medication Error Reporting

1. Q: What types of licensees are required to report medication errors under AB 1286?

A: A community pharmacy licensed pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter 9 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code (BPC) is required to report medication errors under AB 1286. For purposes of the measure, the term “community pharmacy” includes any pharmacy that dispenses medication to an outpatient, including both resident and nonresident pharmacies, but not including facilities of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

[Reference: BPC 4113.1(a) and (c)]

2. Q: What is considered a medication error for purposes of AB 1286 reporting?

A: For purposes of AB 1286 reporting, the term “medication error” includes any variation from a prescription drug order not authorized by the prescriber, including, but not limited to, errors involving the wrong drug, the wrong dose, the wrong patient, the wrong directions, the wrong preparation, or the wrong route of administration, but does not include any variation that is corrected prior to dispensing to the patient or patient's agent or any variation allowed by law.

[Reference: BPC 4113.1(d)]

3. Q: AB 1286 requires a community pharmacy to report medication errors to an entity approved by the Board. What is the name of the approved entity?

A: The Board approved the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) as the entity to receive medication error reports from community pharmacies under BPC 4113.1.

[Reference: BPC 4113.1(a) and (b)]

4. Q: When do community pharmacies have to start reporting medication errors under BPC 4113.1?

A: ~~The Board has announced that~~ Medication errors occurring on or after September 1, 2025, must be reported under BPC 4113.1. The Board will use a variety of means to communicate any further updates to the implementation timeframe for BPC 4113.1 medication error reporting, including through the Board's subscriber alert system and posting information on the [California Medication Error Reporting \(CAMER\) page](#) on its website.

5. Q: How do I register with ISMP for medication error reporting?

A: A link to the ISMP registration portal can be found on the [California Medication Error Reporting \(CAMER\) page](#) on the Board's website.

6. Q: Is there a fee for medication error reporting under BPC 4113.1 ?

A: Per the contract between the Board and ISMP, ISMP will charge community pharmacies an initial registration fee of \$70 for the first contract year (2/1/2025-1/31/2026), and a renewal fee of \$47 per year for the second and third contract years (2/1/2026-1/31/2027 and 2/1/2027-1/31/2028, respectively).

7. Q: I work in an outpatient hospital pharmacy. Am I required to report all medication errors to the Board-approved entity under the provisions of AB 1286?

A: It depends. AB 1286 generally requires a community pharmacy licensed by the Board to report, either directly or through a designated third party, all medication errors to an entity approved by the Board; however, subdivision (e) of BPC 4113.1 establishes a limited exemption from the reporting requirements, and specifies that an outpatient hospital pharmacy shall not be required to report a medication error that meets the requirements of an adverse event that has been reported to the State Department of Public Health pursuant to HSC 1279.1.

8. Q: My hospital pharmacy holds an HSP license type but periodically dispenses outpatient prescriptions to discharge patients, emergency room patients or hospital employees. The volume of prescriptions dispensed to outpatients is within the limit set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1710 and does not require us to have a separate PHY license type. Do I need to register the HSP with and report to ISMP?

A: No, it is the policy of the Board that if the hospital pharmacy dispensing volume to outpatients is within the limit set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1710, the pharmacy is not required to report medication errors through the CAMER program. -The Board is pursuing a regulatory change to document this policy.

NEW QUESTION:

9. Q: My outpatient infusion center pharmacy holds a PHY license type. Do I need to register the PHY with and report to ISMP?

A: See questions #1, 7, and 8. If an infusion center pharmacy dispenses¹ drugs to outpatients for administration², and neither of the exemptions discussed in #7 or 8 apply, the pharmacy is required to report medication errors to CAMER.

¹ Refer to BPC 4024 for the definition of "dispense".

² Refer to BPC 4016 for the definition of "administer".

10. Q: I work at an infusion center pharmacy that is government owned with a PHE license. Additionally, our entity also has investigational drug pharmacies with a PHE license type. Are these pharmacies subject to CAMER reporting requirements?

A: If the facility meets the definition of a “community pharmacy” under BPC section 4113.1, the facility is required to report medication errors through the CAMER program. It is the responsibility of the pharmacist-in-charge to determine whether the facility is a “community pharmacy” as defined by BPC section 4113.1.

[Reference: BPC 4113.1]

11. Q: If I am reporting medication errors to an entity approved by the Board, am I still required to complete a quality assurance review and report?

A: Yes. The Board's quality assurance regulations remain in place and pharmacies are still required to comply with those regulations.

[Reference: 16 CCR 1711]

12. Q: Are nonresident pharmacies required to report all medication errors to the Board-approved entity under the provisions of AB 1286?

A: Subdivision (f) of BPC 4113.1 (which was added by Assembly Bill 1503 (Berman, Chapter 196, Statutes of 2025) states that a pharmacy licensed pursuant to BPC 4112 shall only be required to report medication errors related to prescriptions dispensed to California residents.

[Reference: BPC 4113.1]

Note: The Committee did not discuss nor is it recommending substantive changes to any other topics contained in the full AB 1286 FAQ document approved by the Board. The full FAQs document is currently available [here](#).