



nabp

## 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: March 3, 2016  
RE: NAPLEX Program Notification

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The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy<sup>®</sup> (NABP<sup>®</sup>) would like to notify the boards of pharmacy regarding changes to the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination<sup>®</sup> (NAPLEX<sup>®</sup>). The NAPLEX program will transition to a new administration model in November 2016 and the upcoming changes are detailed below. These changes are the result of the Association's extensive development and ongoing evaluation process.

The following is a summary of the NAPLEX program changes that will go into effect on November 1, 2016.

- The number of examination items will increase from 185 to 250. Of the 250 delivered questions, 200 are operational and will be used to calculate a score for the NAPLEX. The remaining 50 will be non-scored or pretest items.
- The testing time for the examination will increase from four hours and fifteen minutes to six hours. The appointment time with the vendor, Pearson VUE, will be six and a half hours to allow for time to read and agree to the confidentiality/non-disclosure agreement, and to take the tutorial and post-exam survey.
- The registration fee will increase from \$505 to \$575 to account for the additional seat time.
- The examination assembly format will change from a computer adaptive exam (test assembled as candidate is taking the exam) to a linear form exam (pre-assembled exam form).

As part of an ongoing development process, the NAPLEX is continuously reviewed and evaluated to ensure the examination tests the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities expected of an entry-level pharmacist. Below is an overview of the evaluation process that began in 2014 and resulted in new competency statements, a new passing standard, and the upcoming changes in the administration model.

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- In 2014, NABP conducted the national NABP Pharmacy Practice Analysis Survey, with over 4,700 respondents (pharmacy regulators, practitioners, and academicians) participating.
- Subject matter experts analyzed results of the survey, which were also reviewed by the NAPLEX Review Committee, the Advisory Committee on Examinations, and the NABP Executive Committee, and resulted in new competency statements for the NAPLEX. These changes were described in a memo sent on November 6, 2014, and the NAPLEX competency statements were implemented in November 2015 and are available in the Programs section of the NABP website at *www.nabp.net*. Also, as of November 2015, more clinical-based/patient-centered test items were included.
- A standard setting study was conducted in March 2015, and the new passing standard was implemented in November 2015. The panel that participated in the standard setting study was composed of members of the NABP Executive Committee, members of the NABP Advisory Committee on Examinations (ACE), the NAPLEX Review Committee, and pharmacist practitioners/academicians recruited from respondents to the 2014 survey. A detailed overview of the standard setting process is available in the June-July 2015 *NABP Newsletter*.

Further analysis of the practice analysis survey, NAPLEX content and test specifications, test design and assembly, and administrative processes, resulted in the recommendation to increase the depth and breadth of the content tested on the NAPLEX.

NABP will provide additional information on the transition to the new administration model in the coming months, and will also be alerting candidates of the changes via the NABP website, the *NAPLEX/MPJE Candidate Registration Bulletin*, and communications to the schools and colleges of pharmacy.

If there are any questions regarding the updates to the NAPLEX program, please contact Maria Incrocci, competency assessment senior manager, at [mincrocci@nabp.net](mailto:mincrocci@nabp.net) or 847/391-4406.

cc: NABP Executive Committee  
NABP Advisory Committee on Examinations