

Indian Health Service

National Pharmacy Council & Pharmacy PSG Updates

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DATE



Learning Objectives

- OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL PHARMACY COUNCIL (NPC)
- DESCRIBE GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NPC'S COMMITTEES



NPC OVERVIEW

Purpose

- to provide advice and consultation to the Principal Pharmacy Consultant (PPC) of the Indian Health Service (IHS), and all IHS, Tribal, and Urban (I/T/U) pharmacy programs on issues related to developing and maintaining a pharmacy program that meets the IHS mission



NPC OVERVIEW

Committees

- Executive Leadership Committee
- Recruitment and Retention
- Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group (PSG)
- Communications
- Inventory Management
- Pharmacy Collections
- Advancing Pharmacy Practice (APPC)
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Pharmacy Technician Practice
- Pharmacy Policy Alignment
- Pharmacy Standards
- Pharmacy Distribution
- Pharmacy Quality & Safety
- Awards

Current Workgroups

- Space & Equipment
- Clinical Revenue

Other Members

- 6 National Committee Representatives
- 12 Area Pharmacy Consultants
- 12 Area Representatives



NPC Executive Leadership Committee

Goals/Purpose

- Facilitate teamwork within IHS Pharmacy (Obj. 1.2)
- Provide advice and consultation to the Principal Pharmacy Consultant (Obj. 3.1)
- Respond & resolve issues related to pharmacy practices in IHS using strategic plan to achieve the IHS mission (Obj. 3.1)



NPC Executive Leadership Committee

IHS Southwestern Regional Pharmacist Conference (QUAD)

- In-person Chiefs meeting and NPC Strategic Planning meeting
 - Identify goals for FY 2025- HR, Wellness, and Succession Planning

1. HR Goals: Standardization of PDs
2. Wellness Goals: Create a toolkit for Chief Pharmacists to implement into their workforce and departments- CAPT Gunderson and CDR Anderson will be leading efforts.
3. Succession Planning Goal: Working towards and objective for this goal



NPC Executive Leadership Committee

Progress for a Remote Order Processing Pharmacist for federal HIS facilities that utilize RPMS

- Relieves staffing support
- 6 pharmacies and pharmacists identified for Phase 1 roll-out

Change Healthcare Updates to areas

- Provided updates at every step
- Fully back-online with OIT support

3 Special General Memorandums (SGMs) authored by the HOPE Committee

- Drug checking equipment approved in February – addresses grant use; look for announcement in Week in Review
- Medical cannabis – waiting for the medical director's signature
- Opioid stewardship – going through approval process

NPC Charter in process for update



Recruitment & Retention Committee

Goals/Purpose

- Streamline process to match interested candidates to vacant pharmacy positions (Obj. 1.1)
- Introduce pharmacy students to IHS and USPHS, to gain experience & training , furthering their education & considering a career with the IHS (Obj. 1.1)
- Support IHS & Tribal Pharmacy Residency Programs with administration, application, selection, onboarding & training of pharmacy residents with a focus on long-term retention & progression into leadership roles throughout the agency (Obj. 1.1)
- Identify, define, & advocate for the staffing needs of pharmacies, provide best practice guidance related to 24-hour pharmacy coverage & TDY staffing (Obj. 1.3)
- Improving IHS pharmacies ability to recruit, develop, & retain a dedicated, competent, & caring workforce (Obj. 1.1) as well as increase access to quality health care services (Obj. 1.3)
- Maintain/Further develop processes to recruit pharmacy students into IHS, as interns, COSTEPs, & potential future employees (Obj. 2.1)



Recruitment & Retention Committee

2024 APhA Conference Attendance- 191 recorded contacts (142 from pharmacy schools including preceptors, students, and admin)

2024 COSTEP Selections- SR =5, JR=8

Virtual Residency Conference- June 2024 (22 presenters)

FDA Student Education Series (monthly attendance to increase awareness of HIS Pharmacy Residency Programs)

National IHS Residency Program

Planning an ASHP Visiting Leaders meeting in conjunction with PPTP for Aug 30, 2024

Leadership training of new leads



IHS Residency Programs

- 25 Post-Graduate Year 1 (PGY1) programs with 28 positions
- 4 Post-Graduate Year 2 (PGY2) programs with 4 positions
 - Specialty practice areas such as
 - Ambulatory Care
 - Medication Use & Safety
- 1 Combined PGY1-PGY2 program with 1 position
 - 2 year program
 - Health-System Pharmacy Administration & Leadership
- Agency-Wide
 - 11 IHS Areas
 - Both federal and tribal facilities



IHS Residents – drivers for improvement

- 2000 to 2023
 - 464 total residents hired; High completion rate (93+%)
 - High retention rate (over 55% Retention at training site; 80% with IHS)
- Residents are drivers of advanced clinical practice & quality improvement
 - Collaborative practice and patient care
 - Informatics
 - Major projects locally; nationally
- Residents often progress to leadership roles
- 2024-25 Cycle-
 - 33 Positions filled



Residency Informatics Longitudinal Rotation

- Offered continuously since 2010, 195 residents
- In 2022, opened to any IHS pharmacist desiring to participate
- Informatics Subject Matter Experts from across the agency
- Goals
 - **Provide** pharmacy residents & pharmacy Informaticists with operational knowledge of Indian Health Service Pharmacy software systems
 - **Explore** how pharmacy software interfaces with all users of the Electronic Health Record (EHR)
 - **Review** pharmacy clinical informatics concepts as they relate to clinical pharmacy principles, practices, & techniques
 - **Cultivate** interactive dialog promoting optimization of systems & alignment to “Best-Practice & Future-State” workflows through configuration & training
 - **Culminate** in an informatics improvement project, presented during the final session



Pharmacy Practice Training Program (PPTP)

- Long-standing IHS training, training over 2000 IHS pharmacists since inception
- 2 sessions/year, one dedicated to IHS pharmacy residents
- Status Post-pandemic
 - June 2022 – 27 – focused on residents
 - August 2022 – 30 – focused on residents
 - June 2023 – 15 – non residents
 - August 2023 –24-30 – focused on residents
 - August 2024 – TBD attendance
- Efforts to modernize curricula by building patient cases and exercises into the Electronic Health Record
- Attendees experience self-guided analysis of patient information collaboratively with other peers



Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group (PSG)

Goals/Purpose

- To identify, define, prioritize & advocate for the information resource management & technology needs of pharmacists in Indian Health Service Federal, Tribal, and Urban (I/T/U) facilities (Obj. 3.3)
- To establish a central system to coordinate issues dealing with pharmacy computer software (Obj. 3.3)



Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group (PSG)

Monthly office hours (eLearning) with Various Topics

- General Q/A Open Office Hours
- OIT Patch Updates and Discussion
- Clinical Decision Support
- eRx Implementation Tips
- Tutorial on IHS.gov training repository
- Quick Orders/Menus
- Unit Dose Quick Orders
- Fileman System Introduction

2023 EHR Clinical Informatics Webinar Series

- Collaboration with OIT, NCI, APC, and Area Clinical Pharmacists
- 100 attendees per day, 18 presentations
- 20 Pharmacist CEU credits offered



Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group (PSG)

2024 EHR Clinical Informatics Webinar Series

Training is concentrated around the RPMS pharmacy package and informatics

- Scheduled for August 19-23
- Approved for 20 Pharmacist CEU Credits
- Virtual and Tuition Free- Available to all federal IHS/Tribal staff

Credential Program for Pharmacy Informaticists

- Very Early stages



Communications Committee

Goals

- Develop and maintain various communication methods (Obj. 3.1)

Accomplishments

- Moderated NPC and IHS Pharmacists Listservs (Obj 3.1)
- Published Newsletter (Obj 3.1)
- Maintenance of Max.gov / transition to Microsoft Teams (Obj 3.1)
- Pharmacy website updates (Obj 3.1)
- Recruit new members (Obj 3.1)



Communications Committee

Continuing Quarterly Newsletter with updates

Regular communication regarding MAX.gov sunset and transition to Microsoft Teams

- Hosted education webinars
- Created Teams channels for NPC Committee and chairs
- Working with OIT for Tribal Pharmacist Access



Inventory Management Committee

Goals/Purpose

- Review & promote inventory management practices to enhance compliance with federal regulations (Obj. 2.1)
- Provide annual Enhanced Surveillance Inventory (ESI) list (Obj. 3.2)



Inventory Management Committee

Members of committee are rotating through PLT (Pharmacist Leadership Training) as presenters

- Discussing Inventory Management

DSCSA Compliance Document

ESI Drug List Document



Pharmacy Collections Committee

Goals

- Provide trainings on pharmacy billing procedures (Obj. 2.1)
- Identify, define, prioritize & advocate for best practices in billing & collections for IHS pharmacies to increase collections (Obj. 1.3)

Accomplishments

- Provided monthly virtual trainings during OIT Pharmacy Office Hours covering all sections of Pharmacy Point of Sale. Trainings are recorded & available (Obj. 1.3)
<https://www.ihs.gov/rpms/training/recording-and-material-library/>



Pharmacy Collections Committee

Monthly Office Hours (~50-70+ attendance)

- Pharmacy Audits, How to avoid charge-backs and common mistakes
- Maximizing Medicaid Revenue using Fileman
- Suppressing and Un-suppressing NCPDP Fields
- Delegating prior Auth Responsibilities
- Insurer File Cleanup

National Point of Sale training October 22-23 (Phoenix Area Office)

- 8-9 Topics Presented
- 125 attendees each day

Continuously working with national leaders on solving reimbursement issues

Patient Benefits and Registration Training Attendance



Pharmacy Collections Committee

Change HealthCare Updates

- OIT Patch (Apr 19, 2024)
 - Steps to clear up major backlog



Advancing Pharmacy Practice Committee

Purpose

- Advancing clinical pharmacy practice within IHS, by providing access to pharmacy mentorship, resource guides, & advanced clinical certificate programs (Obj. 2.2)



Advancing Pharmacy Practice Committee

New Member transition

- Transitioned to Teams platform

Defining Pharmacist Practice Levels

Scope of Practice Document



Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Committee (ASP)

Purpose

- Improve and measure appropriate use of antimicrobials within IHS by providing all sites with accessible tools and best practices to establish site specific antibiotic stewardship programs
- Optimize antibiotic prescribing to best treat infections while minimizing and or reducing antibiotic resistance

Goals

- Measure and improve appropriate use of antimicrobials within IHS (Obj 2.1)
- Utilize current published data to develop monthly webinar series (Obj 2.1.6)



Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Committee (ASP)

2024 Webinar Series Underway (Started in April)- clinical information emphasis

- **Advancing Antimicrobial Stewardship: Navigating the Latest Joint Commission Updates (60 attendees)**
- **Dental Stewardship (presented by CDC- May 23)**
- **Office hours at the end of each series for Q/A and Idea sharing**

NHS Reporting Updates managed by OIT



What is an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP)?

- An ASP is a collaborative, multidisciplinary committee led by physicians, pharmacists, or both with the common goal of improving patient outcomes by combating antimicrobial resistance and reducing the spread of multidrug resistant organisms through appropriate antibiotic use
- ASPs are vital to ensure their respective sites are meeting antimicrobial stewardship requirements for Joint Commission accreditation



JC Updated ASP Requirements



JC Updates ASP Requirements

Effective January 1st, 2023

Total of 12 new and revised EPs

[r3_antibioticstewardship_july2022_final.pdf \(jointcommission.org\)](#)

R³ Report | Requirement, Rationale, Reference

A complimentary publication of The Joint Commission

Issue 35, June 20, 2022

Published for Joint Commission-accredited organizations and interested health care professionals, *R³ Report* provides the rationale and references that The Joint Commission employs in the development of new requirements. While the standards manuals also may provide a rationale, *R³ Report* goes into more depth, providing a rationale statement for each element of performance (EP). The references provide the evidence that supports the requirement. *R³ Report* may be reproduced if credited to The Joint Commission. Sign up for [email](#) delivery.

New and Revised Requirements for Antibiotic Stewardship

Effective January 1, 2023, new and revised antibiotic stewardship requirements will apply to all Joint Commission-accredited hospitals and critical access hospitals. The 12 elements of performance (EPs) are included in the "Medication Management" (MM) chapter (Standard MM.09.01.01) and expand upon the current expectations for antibiotic stewardship programs in the hospital setting.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are at least 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections each year, and more than 35,000 people die as a result. When *Clostridioides difficile* (a bacterium that can cause deadly diarrhea and is associated with antibiotic use) is included in the analysis, there are more than 3 million infections and 48,000 deaths.¹ Optimizing the use of antibiotics is a patient safety priority, and antibiotic stewardship programs play a critical role in supporting appropriate antibiotic prescribing practices and reducing antibiotic resistance. As a result, The Joint Commission made several revisions to Standard MM.09.01.01, which include updates to align with federal regulations and current recommendations from scientific and professional organizations.

Engagement with stakeholders, customers, and experts

In addition to an extensive literature review and public field review, The Joint Commission obtained expert guidance from the following group:

- [Technical Advisory Panel \(TAP\)](#) of subject matter experts from various health care and academic organizations and professional associations.

The prepublication version of the antibiotic stewardship standards will be available online until December 31, 2022. After January 1, 2023, please access the new requirements in the E-dition or standards manual.

Medication Management

Requirements: There are 12 new and revised EPs that address antibiotic stewardship. The requirements marked as "new" introduce concepts and expectations that have not been addressed previously. Requirements marked as "revised" include a combination of editorial changes, additional notes to clarify expectations, and EPs that will now apply to all accredited hospitals (deeming lead-in statements have been deleted).

Standard MM.09.01.01: The hospital establishes antibiotic stewardship as an organizational priority through support of its antibiotic stewardship program.

EP 10 (new): The hospital allocates financial resources for staffing and information technology to support the antibiotic stewardship program. (See also LD.01.03.01, EP 5)

EP 11 (revised): The governing body appoints a physician and/or pharmacist who is qualified through education, training, or experience in infectious diseases and/or antibiotic stewardship as the leader(s) of the antibiotic stewardship program.

Note: *The appointment(s) is based on recommendations of medical staff leadership and pharmacy leadership.*

Project: NHSN AUR Reporting



JC Requirement

EP 16 (new): The antibiotic stewardship program monitors the hospital's antibiotic use by analyzing data on days of therapy per 1000 days present or 1000 patient days, or by reporting antibiotic use data to the National Healthcare Safety Network's Antimicrobial Use Option of the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Module



OIT Functionality

RPMS Patch LR p1055

Requirement for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals:

- 180 days worth of AUR data in CY2024

Two reporting options:

- Antibiotic Resistance Module (ARM)
- Antibiotic Utilization Module (AUM)

Exemptions for ARM:

- No in-house microbiology
- Utilize outside micro that isn't retrievable
- Still required to submit to AUM if using BCMA and ADT



IHS Antibiotic Stewardship Webpage



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Indian Health Service
The Federal Health Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives

Search IHS

A to Z Index Employee Resources Feedback

The Indian Health Service is working closely with our tribal partners to coordinate a comprehensive public health response to both COVID-19 and mpox.

About IHS Locations for Patients for Providers Community Health Careers@IHS Newsroom Login

National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee

National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee

National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee

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Antibiotic Stewardship Program

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Mpox

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Strategic Initiatives

National Core Formulary



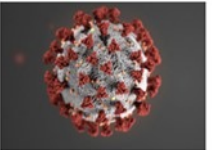
The National Core Formulary is regularly updated as current medical practice and literature warrant change. Please visit the [National Core Formulary](#) often for updates.

Clinical Guidance



Clinical Guidance documents offer convenient, concise reviews of NPTC topics. [Formulary Briefs](#)

COVID-19 Clinical Information



The NPTC provides original clinical content and guidance on COVID-19 related issues for I/T/U providers. [NPTC COVID-19 clinical information](#)

The Indian Health Service (IHS) National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (NPTC) is a permanent, chartered committee consisting of both field members and leadership officers. Field membership includes twelve practicing physicians and pharmacists representing the full spectrum of geographic and practice settings in Indian country. Leadership of the NPTC resides in a physician Chairperson and a pharmacist Vice-Chair.

The primary responsibility of the NPTC is to ensure that the IHS National Core Formulary (NCF) remains up to date with changes in medical knowledge and practice and provides I/T/U clinicians with the tools to deliver evidence-based and cost-effective pharmaceutical services. The NPTC meets quarterly to discuss evolving research and practice guidelines for conditions addressed by the NCF, to review the status of national contracts and other pharmaco-economic data, to consult with subject matter experts on formulary and guidelines issues and to modify the NCF as needed.

STAY CONNECTED

Sign up on our [NPTC LISTSERV](#) for latest news, updates and discussions.

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National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee / Antibiotic Stewardship Program

National Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee

Antibiotic Stewardship Program

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Strategic Initiatives

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Antibiotic Stewardship Program Committee (ASP) is a subcommittee of the IHS National Pharmacy Council (NPC) and is responsible for providing guidance on improving and measuring the appropriate use of antimicrobials by promoting the selection of the optimal antimicrobial drug regimen, dose, duration of therapy, and route of administration in Federal, Tribal, and Urban (I/T/U) facilities within the Indian Health Service (IHS). The ASP team will provide support of IHM Part 3 Chapter 39 and advise the Director, OPCS regarding aspects of the ASP under their purview.

Mission

The ASP Committee seeks to improve and measure appropriate use of antimicrobials within IHS by providing all sites with accessible tools and best practices to establish site specific antibiotic stewardship programs.

Vision

To optimize antibiotic prescribing to best treat infections while minimizing and or reducing antibiotic resistance.

STAY CONNECTED

[IHS ASP Listserv](#) (click to sign up)

Clinical Resources

[A Review of Antimicrobial Resources](#) (PDF - 1770 KB)

[Ambulatory Care ASP Elements Presentation](#) (PDF - 1516 KB)

[Antibiograms](#) (PDF - 1422 KB)

[Antimicrobial Efforts in the Emergency Room](#) (PDF - 249 KB)

[ASP Quality Improvement with SMARRT Software](#) (PDF - 1343 KB)

[Cost Elements of Antimicrobial Stewardship](#) (PDF - 784 KB)

[Implementing AUC-MIC Vancomycin Monitoring at an IHS Medical Center](#) (PDF - 3650 KB)

[Organizing Quick Order in EHR](#) (PDF - 1990)

Previous Webinar Recordings

[Inpatient ASP Reporting](#)

NPC-ASP Leadership team

Chair – CDR Dinesh Sukhiall, PharmD
dinesh.sukhiall@ihs.gov

Vice-Chair – CDR James "Garrett" Sims, PharmD
James.sims@ihs.gov

Secretary – LCDR Madison Adams, PharmD
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Presentation Coordinator - Vacant



Future Projects



Future Considerations

Expanding national ASP efforts beyond pharmacist/pharmacy department



Pharmacy Technician Practice Advisory Committee (PTPAC)

Goals/Purpose

- Develop & support a training program for pharmacy technicians to obtain & maintain a national certification & practice at the top of their licensure & certification (Obj. 1.1.12)
- Collaborate with stakeholders & other agencies to augment technician training program (Obj. 1.2.4)
- Incorporate pharmacy technicians into interdisciplinary efforts (Obj. 1.3.6)
- Promote incentive program(s) for rewarding technicians who complete training & perform in expanded roles (Obj. 1.1.1)



Pharmacy Technician Practice Advisory Committee (PTPAC)

Program development to teach technician skills to high school

- Pharmacy Technician Pathway

NPC Newsletter with feature about VA Technician Training



Pharmacy Policy Alignment Committee

Goals/Purpose

- Ensure IHS Pharmacy Program alignment with the IHS Manual Part 3, Chapter 7 (Obj. 2.1)
- Modify current processes to improve efficiency
- Develop master report of review findings for Principal Pharmacy Consultant review



Pharmacy Policy Alignment Committee

Content/Documents submitted to committee by 70 sites

- 73% compliant with policy submissions

Reviewing documents to reduce duplication

Updating Charter



Pharmacy Standards Committee

Purpose

- Responsible for providing resources and guidance to facilities within the IHS to ensure employee safety through proper handling of hazardous medications and compliance with sterile and non-sterile compounding standards

Goals

- Facilitate teamwork among IHS sites to achieve compliance with USP <795>, <797>, and <800> standards (Obj 2.1)
- Provide the tools, education, expertise, and resources needed to guide IHS facilities to successful implementation of USP standards. (Obj 2.1)



Pharmacy Standards Committee

USP 795/797/800 standards now enforced (Nov 1, 2024)

Chapter 41 updates have been submitted

Southwester Regional Pharmacist Conference (QUAD) Presentation

No-Sterile Compounding Toolkit (release soon)



Pharmacy Distribution Committee

Goals/Purpose

- Provide quality pharmaceutical & medical supplies to I/T/U facilities at the lowest possible price in the most efficient manner (Obj. 3.2)
- Oversee the Consolidated Mail Out Program (CMOP) & Yearly Influenza Program on behalf of IHS (Obj. 2.2)
- Conduct emergency response procurement & distribution functions for critical items such as PPE, testing supplies, and vaccines on behalf of IHS (Obj. 1.3)



Pharmacy Distribution Committee

Updates regarding RSV Vaccine

- **Nirsevimab 100 mg difficulty to order from manufacturer- committee working closely to get supply to McKesson and VFC**

Flu Vaccine (2024)

Transition from Insulin Detemir to Insulin Glargine-yfgn pens

Continues to monitor medication shortages and temporary price reductions

Winter Weather Impacted a lot of distribution

McKesson Interface change



Pharmacy Quality and Safety Committee

Purpose:

- Promoting the safe and rational use of medications through use of IHS data (Objective 2.2.1)

Goals:

- Development of tools for Facility, Service Unit, Area and National use that promote the safe use of medications and improve the provision of quality



Pharmacy Quality and Safety Committee

I-Star Activity

- Workgroup to create dashboard updates (Video will be released)
- Overdue events still a concern agency-wide (HQ level focus)
- Policy is in a review process
- Open office hours every other week

Southwestern Regional Pharmacist Conference (QUAD) Presentation

New dashboard roll-out (soon); working on implementation plan

Collaboration with VA, FDA, and IHS for medication errors



Awards Committee

Goals

- Identify and promote awareness of internal and external award programs, facilitate the award nomination process, and coordinate all phases of award activity and recognition. (Obj 1.1)

Accomplishments

- Initiated Pharmacy Monthly Spotlight Program (Obj 1.1)
- Promoted award nominations for NPC Committees (Obj 1.1)
- Promoted award nomination for NPC Individual Awards (Obj 1.1)
- Promoted IHS Director Award Nominations (Obj 1.1)



Awards Committee

Monthly Spotlight Updates

- Reviews teams/person(s) worthy of recognition from each area (featured in newsletter and “IHS Week in Review”)
 - Jan- Phoenix Area:
 - Feb- Portland Area:
 - Mar- Tucson Area:
 - Apr- ABQ Area
 - May- Alaska Area
 - June- Bemidji Area

IHS Pharmacy Awards

- JR, SR, Preceptor, and Technician of the Year



