The Minnesota Board of Pharmacy exists to protect the public from adulterated, misbranded, and illicit drugs, and from unethical or unprofessional conduct on the part of pharmacists or other licensees, and to provide a reasonable assurance of professional competency in the practice of pharmacy by enforcing the Pharmacy Practice Act M.S. 151, State Controlled Substances Act M.S. 152 and various other statutes. The Board strives to fulfill its mission through a combination of regulatory activity, and technical consultation and support for pharmacy practices through the issuance of advisories on pharmacy practice issues, and through education of pharmacy practitioners.

In the judgment of the Board, the safest way for patients to receive pharmacy services is from a traditional pharmacy setting. However, the Board recognizes that a number of factors are limiting access to traditional pharmacy services in some rural areas of the state. The Board further recognizes that limited access to such services can, itself, be a safety issue. Consequently, the Board will work with pharmacists, other health care professionals, and other government entities to help ensure that citizens in underserved areas of the state have access to alternative, safe pharmacy services.

Pharmacy services can be provided in non-traditional ways with a reasonable assurance of safety. However, alternative models for the delivery of pharmacy services do require additional scrutiny. The Board does have the authority under M.S. 151 to establish guidelines, policies and rules for alternative models that are more restrictive than those established for traditional pharmacy settings. The Board is committed to establishing the least restrictive guidelines, policies and rules, but must be primarily concerned with protecting the health and safety of the public.