

Guidance: University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy Curriculum Aligned Activities for First-Year Pharmacy Interns

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 214.108, the Board of Pharmacy can offer guidance to licensees about the application of the statutes and rules that the Board enforces. Such guidance is not binding in any court or other adjudicatory body. Some of the areas addressed below contain recommendations that do not have the force of law. Other areas concern issues that are addressed in statutes or rules. For those areas, the requirements in the law control. This document has been approved by the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy to offer guidance to pharmacists that are supervising first-year pharmacy students, as coordinated by the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy's office of experiential education, in Community Pharmacy Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) and/or as they are employed as registered interns. Please note other Rules and Statutes may apply.

History:

During the 2025 Legislative Session, portions of pharmacy intern rules from Chapter 6800.5100 and 6800.5400 were repealed and revisions were placed into Minnesota Statutes chapter 151. As such, a first-year pharmacy student is now eligible for an intern registration once they are enrolled in an ACPE-accredited PharmD program and have completed orientation. Prior to the statutory change, the Board had approved two variances for the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy allowing the 80 hours completed by first-year pharmacy students for their Community Pharmacy Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) to count toward their intern hour requirement for licensure. At the time – and present day, students complete 40 hours under the direct supervision of preceptors and/or supervising pharmacists each semester as coordinated by the college's office of experiential education. When the variance was approved, students were not yet registered as interns with the Board; however they were allowed to participate in activities commensurate with their training and experience under the direct supervision, approval, and ultimate responsibility of a preceptor or supervising pharmacist stationed in the same work area. With the College's assistance, the following suggested tasks were established and adopted as Board guidance regarding what a first-year pharmacy student may engage in. The suggested tasks below remain the Board's guidance as a first-year pharmacy student participates in IPPEs and/or seeks employment as a registered intern.

Curriculum Aligned Activities:

Over the fall semester, students engage in classroom and lab training to support completion of the following tasks under the direct supervision, approval, and ultimate responsibility of a preceptor or supervising pharmacist stationed in the same work area;

- Fulfill a medication order under direct supervision (including a variety of dosage forms).
Tasks related to this include:
 - collecting appropriate patient information,

- ensuring a prescription is valid (including transferred "copied" prescriptions) and the resulting label includes all legal requirements,
- handling dosage forms (tablets, capsules, suspensions, solutions, and refrigerated) appropriately, and
- identifying the steps of the patient education process and being able to navigate those steps.
- Use tertiary drug information resources to look up answers.
- Engage in technical, administrative, and supporting operations of a community pharmacy practice site. Tasks related to this include;
 - describing the medication supply chain process in a community pharmacy,
 - outlining policies, procedures and steps in performing and assessing the quality of the distribution process, and
 - identifying community pharmacy, provider and patient impact related to insurance systems.

Over the spring semester, students engage in classroom and lab training to support completion of the following tasks under the direct supervision, approval, and ultimate responsibility of a preceptor or supervising pharmacist stationed in the same work area;

- Continue tasks outlined from the fall semester above with progression to include completing patient education under the supervision of a pharmacist.
- Formulate a patient care plan that is entirely self-care (over-the-counter) focused OR the part of a care plan related to self-care. Tasks related to this include;
 - collecting appropriate patient information related to self-care,
 - assessing collected information to determine a patient's self-care medication-related problems and health-related needs,
 - creating a care plan in collaboration with the patient, others trusted by the patient, and other health professionals to optimize self-care treatment, and
 - communicating the plan to the patient including appropriate patient communication.
- Prepare and fulfill an order for a non-sterile compounded product. Tasks related to this include;
 - assessing the appropriateness of use of a compounded product,
 - performing calculations related to preparation and appropriate patient use of the non-sterile compounded product,
 - navigating legal requirements related to the preparation and dispensing of a non-sterile compounded product,
 - preparing the compounded product and complete documentation related to the product, and
 - providing patient education specific to a compounded project.
- Prepare and give an immunization.

Note: The list of tasks is meant to serve as a guide and should not be interpreted as required tasks in the fall and/or spring semester. Furthermore, depending on the comfort-level of the

supervising pharmacist and the education of the student, the suggested tasks are not limited to the aforementioned with one exception: At no time should a first-year student perform the final verification of a product prior to dispensing to a patient. All work of a registered intern must be directly supervised by a preceptor or licensed pharmacist in the same work area and verified for accuracy by the pharmacist who is ultimately responsible.

Counting Intern Hours:

To be eligible for pharmacist licensure, interns are statutorily required to complete a minimum of 1,600 intern hours under the supervision of a registered preceptor.

During the first year of pharmacy school, students may be employed and work as interns; however, only hours earned through the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) may count toward the required 1,600 hours, and are limited to a maximum of 80 hours.

After completing their first academic year, students may begin counting additional intern hours—such as those earned through summer employment—toward the 1,600-hour requirement.

References:

Minnesota Statute 151.01, subd. 15

Minnesota Statute 151.101

Minnesota Rule 6800.5100

Minnesota Rule 6800.5200

Minnesota Rule 6800.5300

Minnesota Rule 6800.5350

Minnesota Rule 6800.5400

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