



Variance & Policy Review Committee Report of September 23rd, 2026

9:00 AM in the Big Stone Conference Room and via WebEx

Attendees: Ame Carlson (Chair), Ben Maisenbach, Barbara Droher Kline, Aaron Patterson, Andrea Bistodeau, Robert Johnson, Lisa Tollefson, Krystal Sievert, Mariah Sergot, Sara Meemken, Cameron Erickson, Nader Halim, Ethan Hendricks, Michelle Aytay, Mark Sullivan, Rachel West, Lydia Holzbach.

For Board Meeting of October 7th, 2026

Meeting Appointments

10:00 AM

4464 Accredo Health Group, Inc.

VAR
New

To allow for split certification between any pharmacist within own pharmacy at Accredo Health Group, Inc. located in Eagan, MN.

Eagan, MN - 261914

Denied due to unclear processes and for reasons discussed at Variance and Policy Review Committee meeting. Will work with surveyor.

10:30 AM

4468 Nader Halim

VAR
New

To waive the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Certification (FPGEC) requirement

Defer to full Board with recommendation to Deny for not meeting or exceeding what is required in the existing rule.

Not Registered with the Board

Denied

Requestor did not supply the necessary items to fully evaluate request with providing documents to substantiate or support NABP's closure of file, reaching lifetime maximum, exam scores for FPGEE and TOEFL, and proof of internship hours.

Defer to full Board with recommendation to Deny for not meeting or exceeding what is required in the existing rule.

11:00 AM

4469 Walgreens Central Fill #21426

VAR
New

To allow a pharmacist to technician ratio of 1:8

Brooklyn Park, MN -267113

Denied

Due to the manner in which you propose as an alternative measure is not equivalent or superior to the rule and having 8 technicians to 1 pharmacist would decrease the level of direct supervision of the technicians that the pharmacist can provide, and increased workload and pressure on those pharmacists.

11:30 AM

4333 Walgreens Central Fill #21426

VAR
Request
(4/22/2028)

To allow no pharmacist to do final check/certification of prescriptions filled by the automated counting device at the central fill pharmacy (Request sent 9/26 to remove quarterly reporting)

Brooklyn Park, MN - 267113

Conditions: that the central fill pharmacy conducts a 2% daily audit of prescriptions that have been filled by automation and that the errors found on the audits or errors reported by the retail pharmacies are summarized with differentiation between the types of errors and if the errors were found at central fill or if the errors were reported by the retail sites. Audit report must be sent to the Board quarterly, and that the 2% audit includes a physical count of the contents and assessment of the integrity of the medication

Request to remove condition of quarterly reporting **Approved**
4/22/2028

Conditions - same conditions as above minus the audit reports being sent to the Board.

4355 Walgreens Central Fill #21426

VAR
Request
(4/22/2028)

to allow alternative certification of manually filled prescriptions via the use of pictures and images by the pharmacist(Request sent 9/26 to remove quarterly reporting)

Brooklyn Park, MN - 267113

Conditions: that you provide a quarterly report consisting of the Continuous Quality Improvement and Error data seen with manual filled prescriptions

*Revision to condition **not approved** - historic reporting of manual filling via pictures has not been established to ensure patient safety. Committee is in agreeance that the data and format of the quarterly reports can be modified as discussed with the inclusion of the 'Near Miss RCA' and 'Retail Pharmacy Reported Events' elements.*

Policy Reviews & Variances

3934

A & E Pharmacy, LLC

VAR
Reapply
(6/1/2024)

to allow the use of an expanded ekit for first dose and emergency drugs that is reviewed by a pharmacist and stored in Omnicell at skilled nursing facilities

Arden Hills, MN - 266412

Conditions: of the following: 1. that the quantities do not exceed a 72 hour supply (usually reserved for non-traditional facilities); 2. any changes to the ekit content must be determined by the quality assurance and assessment committee or equivalent; and 3. any policy and/or ekit content changes are to be highlighted within the policies and submitted for Board approval prior to implementation

Approved
2 Years

Conditions - same as above and more timely renewal

4466

Altru Health System

VAR
New

To allow after-hours remote access service of verifying physician medication orders, first dose review and tele-pharmacy services by Altru Health System Hospital Pharmacy located in Grand Forks, ND for Community Memorial Hospital Association located in Cloquet, MN.

Grand Forks, ND - 261742

Denied

The manner in which you propose as an alternative measure is not equivalent or superior to the rule.

4467

Community Memorial Hospital Association

VAR
New

To allow after-hours remote access service of verifying physician medication orders, first dose review and tele-pharmacy services by Altru Health System Hospital Pharmacy located in Grand Forks, ND for Community Memorial Hospital Association located in Cloquet, MN.

Cloquet, MN - 200999

Denied

The manner in which you propose as an alternative measure is not equivalent or superior to the rule.

3453

Avel eCare, LLC

VAR
Addition
(8/19/2028)

To allow remote pharmacy after hours order review and entry of physician medication orders by Avel eCare Pharmacy in Sioux Falls, SD and Avel eCare Pharmacy in San Antonio, TX for Appleton Area Health, Johnson Memorial Health (Dawson), Avera Granite Falls, Hendricks Hospital, Meeker Memorial (Litchfield), Madison Hospital, Avera Marshall, CCM Health (Montevideo), Mille Lacs Health System (Onamia), Pipestone Medical Center, Sleepy Eye Medical Center, Avera Tyler, Warren Community Hospital, Ely Bloomenson Hospital Pharmacy, and Glacial Ridge Hospital Pharmacy(Revisions sent 9/26 to include Northfield Hospital Pharmacy in Northfield, MN)

San Antonio, TX - 267056
Sioux Falls, SD - 266383

Conditions: Standard after hours

*Addition of Northfield Hospital **Approved**
Align with other sites: 8-19-2028
Conditions - standard afterhours conditions*

3757

Northfield Hospital

VAR
Addition
(8/19/2028)

To allow remote pharmacy after hours order review and entry of physician medication orders by Avel eCare Pharmacy in Sioux Falls, SD and Avel eCare Pharmacy in San Antonio, TX (Revisions sent 9/26 to include Northfield Hospital Pharmacy in Northfield, MN)

Add 200537 Northfield

Conditions: Standard

*Addition of Northfield Hospital **Approved**
Align with other sites: 8-19-2028
Conditions - standard afterhours conditions*

4052
VAR
Revision
(2/11/2028)

Cardinal Health Pharmacy Services, LLC

To allow remote pharmacy after hours order review and entry of physician medication orders by Cardinal Health in Dublin, OH for Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic and Winona Health Services Hospital when the hospital pharmacies are closed from normal business hours of operation. (Revisions sent 8/26 to adjust hours of coverage by Cardinal Health for Winona Health Services)

Dublin, OH - 266708

Conditions: Standard Afterhours Conditions letter for 2 yr data

*Revisions to hours of coverage for Winona Health Services Hospital **Approved**
Same expiration date: 2/11/2028
Conditions - Standard afterhours conditions*

4053
VAR
Revision
(2/11/2028)

Winona Health Services

To allow remote pharmacy after hours order review and entry of physician medication orders by Cardinal Health in Dublin, OH when the hospital pharmacy is closed from normal business hours of operation. (Revisions sent 8/26 to adjust hours of coverage by Cardinal Health for Winona Health Services)

Winona, MN - 200691

Conditions: Standard Afterhours Conditions letter for 2 yr data

*Revisions to hours of coverage for Winona Health Services Hospital **Approved**
Same expiration date: 2/11/2028
Conditions - Standard afterhours conditions*

4286
VAR
Renewal
(10/9/2026)

Cardinal Health Pharmacy Services, LLC

To allow remote pharmacy after hours order review and entry of physician medication orders by Cardinal Health in Dublin, OH for Rice Memorial Hospital and CentraCare locations in Monticello, Sauk Centre, Long Prairie, Paynesville, Melrose, Redwood Falls, and Benson

Dublin, OH - 266078

Conditions: standard 2 year after hours letter PLUS additional condition on Ohio pharmacy if using technicians for services to MN located hospitals, technicians must obtain MN technician registrations.

Note: Hours of coverage changed since last renewal for some sites.

Approved
2 Years

*Conditions - same as above + any changes in hours need to be approved by the Board **prior** to implementation.*

4287
VAR
Renewal
(10/9/2026)

CentraCare Health System & Carris Health

To allow remote pharmacy after hours order review and entry of physician medication orders by Cardinal Health Services located in Dublin, OH.

Melrose, MN - 201003
Redwoods Falls, MN - 266287
Monticello, MN - 264079
Benson, MN 266678
Paynesville, MN - 264213
Long Prairie, MN - 261653
Wilmar, MN - 265465
Sauk Centre, MN - 264009

Conditions: standard 2 year after hours letter PLUS additional condition on Ohio pharmacy if using technicians for services to MN located hospitals, technicians must obtain MN technician registrations.

Approved
2 Years

*Conditions - same as above + any changes in hours need to be approved by the Board **prior** to implementation.*

3740
Policy
Addition

Costco Pharmacy #1743

Policy Review of central services for 13 Minnesota sites. (Revision sent 9/26 requesting addition of Costco Pharmacy #1743 located in Otsego, MN)

Add 267423 Otsego

Conditions:

Approved

3772
VAR
Addition
(2/11/2028)

Costco Pharmacy #1743

To allow the separation of the prescription dispensing process including verification, drug utilization review (DUR) and/or certification for new or refillable prescriptions by more than one pharmacist, within your own pharmacy, or between your own facility and Costco Pharmacy #1347 in Jeffersonville, IN (Revision sent 9/26 requesting addition of Costco Pharmacy #1743 located in Otsego, MN)

Add 267423 Otsego

Conditions: that the pharmacy follows the approved policies and procedures. Any changes in the policies and procedures would need to be highlighted and submitted for Board approval prior to implementation.

Approved

Align with other sites: 2-11-2028

Conditions - same as above

2175
VAR
Renewal
(12/4/2026)

CPS Telepharmacy, Inc.

To allow remote pharmacy after hours order review and entry of physician medication orders by CPS Telepharmacy for Northfield Hospital, Olmsted Medical Center Hospital, PrairieCare LLC, and Riverview Healthcare Pharmacy when the hospital pharmacies are closed from normal business hours of operation.

Naperville, IL - 263758

Conditions: See letter.

Approved

2 Years

Conditions - standard afterhours conditions 2 year data

4043
VAR
Renewal
(12/4/2026)

RiverView Healthcare Association

To allow remote pharmacy after hours order review and entry of physician medication orders by CPS Telepharmacy when the hospital pharmacy is closed from normal business hours of operation.

Crookston, MN - 200996
Rochester, MN - 201263
Northfield, MN - 200537
Brooklyn Park, MN - 266651

Conditions: Standard after hours

Approved

2 Years

Conditions - standard afterhours conditions 2 year data

3862
VAR
Renewal
(10/9/2026)

Cuyuna Regional Medical Center

To allow a licensed healthcare provider or pharmacist to waste controlled substances with a registered pharmacy technician or intern witness, instead of two licensed individuals.

Crosby, MN - 265134

Conditions: that you follow your approved policies and procedures. Any changes in the policies and procedures would need to be highlighted and submitted for Board approval prior to implementation

Approved

3 Years

Conditions - same as above

4463

Ebenezer Pharmacy

VAR
New

To allow an increased quantity of medications in the Medbank Automated Dispensing System to be used as an emergency kit as well as 1st dose in skilled nursing facilities.

Arden Hills, MN - 267312

Approved

2 Years

Conditions - general ekit conditions

4470

Policy
NEW

Policy review of Medbank Automated Dispensing System

Approved

4386
VAR
Renewal
(10/22/2026)

Hy-Vee, Inc.

To allow for split certification between Hy-Vee Pharmacy Fulfillment Center (4069) located in Sioux Falls, SD and 4 MN located Pharmacies

Sioux Falls, SD - 267257
Fairmont, MN - 263836
Marshall, MN - 261907

Conditions: that you counsel as required in your policies and procedures.

Approved 2-11-2028 to align with other Fulfillment Centers per request Conditions - same as above			Worthington, MN - 263659 Windom, MN - 265719
4426 VAR Renewal (10/22/2026)	Hy-Vee Pharmacy Fulfillment Center (4069) To allow Hy-Vee Fulfillment Center located in Sioux Falls, SD to utilize verification bypass for a final product check of prescriptions filled by the automated drug distribution system Conditions: that the retail pharmacies conduct a 5% daily audit of prescriptions they receive that have been filled by automation and that the errors found on the audits are summarized and sent to the Board quarterly.		Sioux Falls, SD - 267257
Approved 2-11-2028 to align with other Fulfillment Centers per request Conditions - same as above			
4383 Policy Revision Resubmission	Alixia Rx LLC & LI Script LLC Policy Review of Central Service between Alixia Rx LLC located in Eden Prairie, MN and Alixia Rx LLC located in Bridgeville, PA(revisions sent 8/26 to include LI Script LLC in Woodbury, NY)		Eden Prairie, MN - 263885 Bridgeville, PA - 267161 Woodbury, NY - 267380
Approved			
4384 VAR Renewal & Revision (10/22/2026)	Alixia Rx LLC & LI Script LLC To allow for split certification between Alixia Rx LLC located in Eden Prairie, MN and Alixia Rx LLC located in Bridgeville, PA.(revisions sent 8/26 to include LI Script LLC in Woodbury, NY) Conditions: that you follow your approved policies and procedures. Any changes in the policies and procedures would need to be highlighted and submitted for board approval prior to implementation. Additionally, the pharmacists and technicians at Alixia Rx in Bridgeville PA must have current Minnesota Board of Pharmacy license or registration and be physically in the licensed pharmacy space when engaged in any dispensing steps for Alixia Rx in Eden Prairie MN		Eden Prairie, MN - 263885 Bridgeville, PA - 267161 Woodbury, NY - 267380
Approved 1 Year Conditions - same as above + add NY to RPH/Tech condition + utilization of this variance is for afterhours and/or urgent/emergent needs			
4293 VAR Renewal (10/22/2026)	Guidepoint Pharmacy To allow exemptions from the Board's rules regarding having a pharmacist on duty at all times that the telepharmacy is open and to be serviced by Breezy Point with Nisswa, Brainerd, and Crosby serving as emergency backup pharmacies. Conditions: standard telepharmacy. Additionally, Please note that Minnesota is not an offer to counsel state as MN Rule 6800.0910 reads in part, "a pharmacist shall personally initiate discussion of matters which in the professional judgment of the pharmacist will enhance or optimize drug therapy with each patient or the agent or caregiver of the patient." It is after the initiation of the counseling by the pharmacist when the patient may decline the consultation, initial the counseling ticket printed at pickup and indicate the reason for refusal, as indicated in your policy.		Longville, MN - 264101
Approved 2 Years Conditions - same as above			
3310 VAR Renewal (10/22/2026)	NIS Pharmacy Services LTD to allow an exemption from the Board's rule regarding direct supervision of supportive personnel at the telepharmacy in Longville		Longville, MN - 264101 Brainerd, MN - 261373 Crosby, MN - 263734

(10/22/2020)

Conditions: standard telepharmacy. Additionally, Please note that Minnesota is not an offer to counsel state as MN Rule 6800.0910 reads in part, "a pharmacist shall personally initiate discussion of matters which in the professional judgment of the pharmacist will enhance or optimize drug therapy with each patient or the agent or caregiver of the patient." It is after the initiation of the counseling by the pharmacist when the patient may decline the consultation, initial the counseling ticket printed at pickup and indicate the reason for refusal, as indicated in your policy.

Crosby, MN - 265734
Breezy Point, MN - 265767

Approved

2 Years

Conditions - same as above

4215

Policy

Addition and
Revision

Sanford Blackduck Pharmacy and Sanford Pharmacy 1611 Anne St

Parata Max 2 automation.(revision sent 8/26 to include Sanford Blackduck Pharmacy)

Add 265871 Blackduck
Revision 266637 Bemidji

Approved

4280

Policy
Revision

St. Luke's Hospital of Duluth

Central Service.(revisions sent 9/26 Epic EMR replacing previous Meditech/Intelledose)

Two Harbors, MN - 200530
Duluth, MN - 263043

Approved

4281

VAR
Renewal

(10/9/2026)

St. Luke's Hospital of Duluth

To allow for split certification between Lake View Hospital and St Lukes Oncology Pharmacy for chemotherapy orders.

Conditions: that you follow your approved policies and procedures. Any changes in the policies and procedures would need to be highlighted and submitted for Board approval prior to implementation

Two Harbors, MN - 200530
Duluth, MN - 263043

Approved

2 Years

Conditions - same as above

3364

Policy
Addition

Cub Pharmacy

Policy review of central services(Revisions sent 9/26 to include Cub Pharmacy #1966 in Burnsville, MN)

Add 267122 Burnsville

Approved

3121

VAR
Addition

(1/24/2028)

Cub Pharmacy

To allow the separation of the prescription dispensing process including verification, drug utilization review (DUR) and/or certification for new or refillable prescriptions, by more than one pharmacist on-site or from any approved MN located Cub/SuperValu pharmacy(Revisions sent 9/26 to include Cub Pharmacy #1966 in Burnsville, MN)

Add 267122 Burnsville

Conditions: that you follow your approved policies and procedures. Any changes in the policies and procedures would need to be highlighted and submitted for Board approval prior to implementation.

Approved

Align with other sites: 1-24-2028

Conditions - same as above

4378

VAR
Resubmission

The Saint Cloud Hospital

To allow a 5% daily audit of all dispenses from the XR2 System to replace accuracy check/certification of every dispense by a pharmacist or pharmacist intern.

St Cloud, MN - 20044

Approved
2 Years

Conditions - that the pharmacy documents the errors discovered and CAPA taken and that the documentations are retained for 2 years and available upon request and with renewal. **With renewal** provide the 5% daily audit data and any other errors reported to the pharmacy that were outside of the 5% daily audit that can be attributed to the XR2 System.

4471

Policy
NEW

Policy review of XR2 Automated Central Pharmacy System

Approved

4035

VAR
Resubmission

Walgreen Co.

To allow the pharmacy to utilize a non-contiguous space as a patient care room (PH#200871-space is training room on blueprint). Revisions sent 6/26.

Duluth, MN - 200871

Conditions: that the pharmacist-in-charge remains the same, there is no drug storage in this space as indicated in the related policy, and that there is direct supervision of pharmacy interns while they are in this space

Denied

Supporting documents are for split certification variance (6800.3100 Subp. 3) and not for non-contiguous space variance (6800.0700 Subp 1 D) expanded scope.

4416

VAR
Resubmission

Ala Abdelhamid

To waive the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Certification (FPGEC) requirement

**DEFER TO FULL BOARD WITH
RECOMMENDATION**
Intern #813973

*Deferred to full Board with **recommendation to deny**. Request does not meet or exceed what is required in the existing rule and does not meet the Board's condition placed on the requestor's variance **to register as an intern prior** to completing the FPGEC requirement (Board granted variance to register as intern at the 12/30/2020 board meeting).*

4447

VAR
New

Evelyn Byers

To allow an individual that is under the age of 18 and enrolled in PSEO with Bethel University to register with Minnesota as Technician

**DEFER TO FULL BOARD FOR
DISCUSSION AND ACTION.**

*Deferred to full Board with **no recommendation**. Board would need to act on the variance request to Approve or Deny and impose any conditions seen fit.*

Not Registered with the Board

Deferred to the Board

3274

VAR
Renewal
(10/25/2026)

Fairview Health Services

to allow a pharmacist on site to verify a prescription, certify, and dispense non-sterile, non-controlled compounds, in limited quantities, of complex, urgent/emergent, hazardous, and/or high-risk products prepared by Fairview Compounding Pharmacy per a central service arrangement
Conditions: that you follow your approved policies and procedures. Any changes in the policies and procedures would need to be highlighted and submitted for Board approval prior to implementation

Minneapolis, MN - 260947
Minneapolis, MN - 261411

Approved
3 Years

Conditions - same as above

3275

VAR
Renewal
(10/25/2026)

Fairview Compounding Pharmacy

to allow the pharmacy to prepare non-sterile, non-controlled compounds, in limited quantities, of complex, urgent/emergent, hazardous, and/or high-risk products for a pharmacist at a Fairview inpatient hospital to verify, certify, and dispense per a central service arrangement

Shoreview, MN - 267205

Conditions: that you follow your approved policies and procedures. Any changes in the policies and procedures would need to be highlighted and submitted for Board approval prior to implementation

Approved

3 Years

Conditions - same as above

3350

Fairview Lakes Health Services Pharmacy

VAR

Renewal
(12/4/2026)

to allow remote pharmacy after hours order review and entry of physician medication orders by Fairview Lakes Health Services Pharmacy for Memorial Medical Center (Ashland, WI), Hayward Area Memorial Hospital (Hayward, WI), Burnett Medical Center (Grantsburg, WI), and Osceola Medical Center (Osceola, WI) when the hospital pharmacies are closed from normal business hours of operation.

Wyoming, MN - 261510

Conditions: that you continue to evaluate the pharmacist's workload and assess coverage for after hours services

Approved

3 Years

Conditions - same as above

3434

Fairview Infusion Services

VAR

Renewal
(8/24/2026)

to allow an exemption from the Board's rule regarding central service label requirements
Conditions:

Minneapolis, MN - 263532

Approved

12/13/2027

4149

Essentia Health Baxter North Pharmacy

VAR

Addition
(4/23/2029)

To allow the separation of the prescription dispensing process including verification, drug utilization review (DUR) and/or certification for new or refillable prescriptions, by more than one pharmacist on site, at any approved licensed Essentia Health pharmacy in Minnesota, or at The Duluth Clinic, Ltd. (dba) Essentia Health Prescription Service Center in Superior, WI. QA is performed at any approved licensed Essentia Health pharmacy in Minnesota and the PSC in Superior, WI (Revisions sent 9/26 to add Essentia Health Baxter North Pharmacy)

Add 267467 Baxter

Conditions: that the Wisconsin located pharmacists, interns, and technicians maintain Minnesota licenses and registrations if performing any centralized services for the MN located pharmacies.

Approved

Align with other sites: 4-23-2029

Conditions - same as above

4153

Essentia Health Baxter North Pharmacy

Policy
Addition

Policy review of centralized filling by Essentia Health Prescription Service Center for other approved Essentia Health Pharmacies (Revisions sent 9/26 to add Essentia Health Baxter North Pharmacy)

Add 267467 Baxter

Approved

4156

Essentia Health Baxter North Pharmacy

Policy
Addition

Policy review of central services/central processing (Revisions sent 9/26 to add Essentia Health Baxter North Pharmacy)

Add 267467 Baxter

Approved

4150

Essentia Health Virginia

VAR

Addition
(8/9/2027)

to allow the separation of the prescription dispensing process including verification, drug utilization review (DUR) and/or certification, for new or refillable prescriptions, by more than one pharmacist, between The Duluth Clinic, Ltd. (dba) Essentia Health Hibbing Pharmacy and Infusion Center Pharmacy for patients receiving treatment at the Hibbing Ambulatory Infusion Center (AIC) - (revisions sent 8/26 to include Essentia Health Virginia)

Add 264001 Virginia

Conditions: that the pharmacists and technicians are trained in USP <797> and <800> standards

Approved

Align with other sites: 8-9-2027

Conditions - same as above

Information For Discussion

4358

Variance
(2/11/28)

Hy-Vee, Inc. - Quarter 2 Audit Report

Conditions: that the retail pharmacies conduct a 5% daily audit of prescriptions they receive that have been filled by automation and that the errors found on the audits are summarized and sent to the Board quarterly.

Eagan, MN - 266548

4355 & 4333

Variance
(4/22/28)

Walgreens Central Fill #21426 - Quarter 2 Audit Report

Conditions: that you provide a quarterly report consisting of the Continuous Quality Improvement and Error data seen with manual filled prescriptions

Brooklyn Park, MN - 267113