



2.7.12 DISPENSING OF PHARMACEUTICALS

POLICY:

"Dispense" or "dispensing" means the preparation and delivery of a prescription drug, pursuant to a lawful order of a practitioner or a nurse licensed under chapter 43-12.1 who is authorized by the practitioner to orally transmit the order that has been reduced to writing in the patient's record, in a suitable container appropriately labeled for subsequent administration to or use by a patient or other individual entitled to receive the prescription drug.

North Dakota law requires medications (except contraceptives described below) to be dispensed directly from the prescriber (physician, NP or PA, etc.).

There is an exemption in the Pharmacy law which states:

An individual licensed as a **registered nurse** under chapter 43-12.1, while dispensing oral contraceptive pills, transdermal contraceptive patches, and vaginal contraceptive rings, pursuant to an authorized prescriber's order, while working in a Title X clinic. (ND Century Code 43-15-02 Exemptions)

Registered Nurses can also provide same-day treatment for some STIs following the Standing Orders for the treatment of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia.

PROCEDURE:

Each subrecipient must have a policy to ensure the quality of its pharmaceutical services. The inventory, supply and provision of pharmaceuticals must be conducted in accordance with North Dakota state laws and professional practice regulations.

Subrecipient policies and procedures regarding pharmaceuticals should include the following topics:

- All medications the client uses should be clearly documented in the client's medical record. Nursing staff may enter a client's medications to the medical record, however, only a provider with prescriptive authority may inactivate or archive a medication that the client is no longer using.
- Client Allergies must be documented visibly.
- Formulary - maintain a formulary list of the methods offered.
- Labeling - The medication distributed to the client must bear a label (if not already on the medication package).
- Documentation in medical records - Documentation of all steps taken from medication order to dispensing or distribution to the client.
- Repackaging - Repackaging of medications can only be performed by a provider with prescriptive authority. Medications need to be packaged in child proof containers.
- Prepackaged medications - Prepackaged medications can be dispensed or distributed to a client; the use of prepackaged medications is encouraged whenever possible.
- Medication stocking – must follow state laws and professional practice regulations.

Effective Date: September 2025

Last Reviewed: August 2025, August 2024, July 2023

Next Scheduled Review: August 2026



- Controlled Substances – controlled substances are not stocked, administered or dispensed in Title X agencies.
- Mailing of Medication – outline how medications or supplies will or will not be mailed to client.

RESOURCES:

ND FPP policy 2.7.2 STI Testing and Treatment

ND Board of Pharmacy Laws, Rules, Regulations [lawbooknew.pdf \(nodakpharmacy.com\)](#)

Administrative Guidelines for Practitioner Dispensing in North Dakota [ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES FOR PRACTITIONER DISPENSING \(nodakpharmacy.com\)](#)

CHAPTER 43-15 PHARMACISTS [North Dakota Century Code t43c15 \(ndlegis.gov\)](#)

CHAPTER 43-12.1 NURSE PRACTICES ACT [North Dakota Century Code t43c12.1 \(ndlegis.gov\)](#)

CHAPTER 54-05-02 STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR REGISTERED NURSES [North Dakota Administrative Code - Title 54 Article 5 Chapter 2 \(ndlegis.gov\)](#)

CHAPTER 54-05-03.1 ADVANCED REGISTERED NURSE [North Dakota Administrative Code - Title 54 Article 5 Chapter 3.1 \(ndlegis.gov\)](#)

CHAPTER 43-17 PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS [North Dakota Century Code t43c17 \(ndlegis.gov\)](#)

ND BOARD OF NURSING [Overview - ND Board of Nursing \(ndbon.org\)](#)

ND BOARD OF PHARMACY North Dakota Board of Pharmacy [North Dakota Board of Pharmacy \(nodakpharmacy.com\)](#)

ND BOARD OF MEDICINE [ND Board of Medicine - ND Board of Medicine \(ndbom.org\)](#)

[Mailing-Prescriptions-to-Patients_05112022.pdf \(nationalfamilyplanning.org\)](#)

NDHHS Standing Orders for Chlamydia
<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/DOH%20Legacy/Family%20Planning/Grantees/References/MD%20Chlamydia%20State%20Standing%20Order%2011.2021.pdf>

NDHHS Standing Orders for Gonorrhea
<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/DOH%20Legacy/Family%20Planning/Grantees/References/MD%20Gonorrhea%20State%20Standing%20Order%202.2021.pdf>