

## VIPPS Accreditation Program

Launched in 1999, the Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites™ (VIPPS®) program was established in response to public and regulatory agency concerns regarding safety of Internet pharmacy practices in order to provide a means for the public to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate online pharmacy practice sites.

### Steps to VIPPS Accreditation

- Submit an application, required documents and specified fees to NABP.
- Review policies and procedures that ensure adherence to the program's criteria.
- Verify license status with member state boards.
- Perform an on-site survey.

#### After Achieving Accreditation:

- Once accredited, an annual review and reaccreditation are performed.
- To ensure continued compliance, all VIPPS-accredited sites are resurveyed once every three years.

- The VIPPS program and its accompanying VIPPS seal of approval identifies to the public those online pharmacy practice sites that:
  - are appropriately licensed in each state they ship pharmaceuticals;
  - are legitimately operating via the Internet; and
  - have successfully completed a rigorous 19-point criteria review and on-site survey.
- **Among other areas, the VIPPS Criteria examine:**
  - license compliance;
  - how the patient's or caregiver's identity is verified;
  - patient medication consultation;
  - steps taken to ensure the confidentiality of patient medical records; and
  - how medications are dispensed.
- **VIPPS Facts**
  - A full listing of VIPPS-accredited pharmacies is available under Accreditation Programs on the NABP Web site, [www.nabp.net](http://www.nabp.net).
  - The VIPPS accreditation program is voluntary.
  - In conjunction with the VIPPS program, NABP allows for consumers to report suspiciously operating pharmacies to NABP, which then forwards the information to the state boards of pharmacy.
  - The VIPPS program is supported by Food and Drug Administration and Drug Enforcement Administration.