



FACT

VIPPS Program Overview

Introduced in February 1999, the voluntary Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites™ (VIPPS®) program is designed to accredit an online pharmacy that is able to appropriately dispense pharmaceuticals to the public, is licensed in good standing by state boards of pharmacy, has met a rigorous 19-point criteria review, and has successfully completed an on-site survey. VIPPS accredited online pharmacies display the VIPPS Seal on their site's home page. By clicking on the VIPPS Seal hyperlink, visitors are able to access NABP's VIPPS Web site and instantly obtain information regarding the online pharmacy at www.nabp.net.

To be considered for VIPPS accreditations, the online pharmacy first completes the VIPPS application, and includes documentation that verifies the applicant's adherence to the VIPPS criteria. Once the application and supporting documentation have been received, staff begins the verification and evaluation process, which includes a site visit conducted by one or more surveyors. The VIPPS surveyor(s) will visit the applicant's pharmacy and review and verify the policies and procedures that implement the VIPPS criteria.

Only after successfully completing this application, verification, and site visit process is the online pharmacy awarded VIPPS accreditation. Once an online pharmacy becomes accredited, an annual review and recertification process will be conducted. Follow-up site visits will be scheduled, with all pharmacies being visited once every three years to ensure they continue to meet the VIPPS criteria.

VIPPS Criteria

VIPPS Program Benefits

VIPPS program benefits include:

Instant Access

VIPPS provides consumers instant access to an independently verified and maintained database of online pharmacy licensure information, as well as company, contact, and other information.

Verification

VIPPS offers assurance to third-party payers and insurance companies that VIPPS-accredited online pharmacies are appropriately licensed, and operate within the laws of the jurisdictions in which they do business.

Experience

VIPPS provides assurance to consumers and health care professions because of its design and oversight by NABP, an organization with a century of experience assisting its member boards and jurisdictions in the regulation of pharmacy practice.

Among other things, the VIPPS criteria examine:

- ◆ licensure compliance;
- ◆ how the patient's or caregiver's identity is verified;
- ◆ patient medication consultation;
- ◆ steps that are taken to ensure the confidentiality of patient medical records; and
- ◆ how medications are dispensed.

