



## VAWD Program Overview

The Verified-Accredited Wholesale Distributors® (VAWD®) program was established in 2004 to help protect the public from the threat of counterfeit drugs affecting the United States' drug supply. The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) began developing VAWD after Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requested that the Association update its Model Rules for the Licensure of Wholesale Distributors, which is part of the *Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy*. Members of NABP's resulting Task Force on Counterfeit Drugs and Wholesale Distributors, held in October 2003, revised the Model Rules and proposed the creation of an accreditation program and clearinghouse for wholesale distributors – a plan that was immediately supported by FDA – to further combat counterfeit drugs.

VAWD accreditation provides assurance that the wholesale distribution facility operates legitimately, is validly licensed in good standing, and is employing security and best practices for safely distributing prescription drugs from manufacturers to pharmacies and other institutions. Applicants for VAWD undergo a criteria compliance review, licensure verification, an on-site survey, background checks, and screening through the NABP Clearinghouse.

Throughout the creation of VAWD, NABP involved key stakeholders such as wholesale distributors, state boards of pharmacy, and other state and federal regulators to ensure that the program addresses the concerns of all interested parties. In addition, NABP has established and will operate and administer survey services for the VAWD program. Surveys and surveyors will be managed and contracted directly through NABP.

### VAWD Program Benefits

- Earning VAWD accreditation is an **assurance** that the facility meets high standards of practice for wholesalers.
- Initial survey and regular resurveys serve as **impartial, third party audits** of facility policies, procedures, and practices.
- Accreditation relieves wholesale distributors of the burden of **seller-to-buyer due diligence** as may be required under state laws.
- NABP has **extensive experience with accreditation** as evidenced by its Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites™ (VIPPS®) program.

### Three Steps to VAWD Accreditation

#### Verification of Licensure

- Documentation collected demonstrating that the wholesale distributor is licensed and in good standing with the applicable board(s) of pharmacy or state regulatory agency.
- Verification of licensure of primary personnel (ie, designated representatives), if applicable.
- Thorough screening through NABP's Clearinghouse as well as criminal and financial background checks.

#### Confirmation of Safe Policies and Procedures

- Assessment of policies and procedures against VAWD criteria that NABP developed based upon its Model Rules.
- VAWD criteria address requirements for personnel, the facility, record keeping, pedigrees, drug handling, and suspect products.

#### Facility Surveys

- Experienced surveyors evaluate operations and review facilities, interview staff, and verify documents.
- Surveys enable NABP to compare written policies and procedures with actual practices at wholesale distributors' facilities.

