

VAWD™ Update

By Michael Thomas, CPhT

In the November *PPO*, the article on the Verified-Accredited Wholesale Distributor™ (VAWD™) program instituted by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), we got a lot of feedback from our subscribers. Although this is not a new program (it was instituted in 2004), it is still relatively new, as only 219 facilities in the U.S. have been certified, with new facilities applying for certification every month.

Of all the questions we've received regarding the article, the most-common one was: "Is VAWD mandatory?" After reviewing the article, and double-checking the NABP website, www.nabp.net, we discovered that while the website gives a complete list of VAWD-certified facilities, and the criteria for certification, it still seemed somewhat confusing to us, as well.

So, we decided to do some further research, and found an interview with **Carmen A. Catizone**, MS, RPh, DPh, Executive Director and Secretary, NABP, in the December, 2004 issue of *Drug Topics*, who states: "VAWD is a voluntary program that we hope the states mandate and that we hope the manufacturers mandate through their agreements with their distributors."

It now appears that nearly half of the states in America have either mandated that the VAWD program be part of a facilities' licensure process, or are in the process of doing so.

To find out if your state is one that mandates the VAWD program, contact your state's Board of Pharmacy, because additional states are adopting the program even at the time of this writing.

According to the NABP website, "Mississippi joins Indiana and Oklahoma, as states that have passed legislation authorizing the state board of pharmacy to use an outside agency, such as NABP's VAWD program, to accredit wholesale distributors; in 2005 Indiana passed a law requiring wholesale distributors to obtain VAWD accreditation. In addition, despite the absence of legislative changes to Idaho's wholesale distributor statutes, the Idaho Board of Pharmacy requires inspections of in-state and out-of-state wholesale distribution facilities and allows wholesale drug distributors from states that do not perform routine inspections to obtain VAWD accreditation as a means of meeting the requirement."

Since there are hundreds of companies that have already received this accreditation, we cannot publish them all here, so please note that THE LIST BELOW IS ONLY A PARTIAL ONE, as of Dec 12.

FOR THE FULL LIST, please go to the NABP website, at: www.nabp.net/indexvawdlist.asp.

**AmerisourceBergen
Anda, Inc.
Apotex Corporation
ASD Specialty Healthcare, Inc.
Astellas Pharma Inc.
Atlantic Biologicals Corporation
Blood Diagnostics, Inc.
Cardinal Health
Chapin Specialty Healthcare
Dubin Medical, Inc.
FFF Enterprises Inc.
GlaxoSmithKline**

H.D. Smith Wholesale Drug Co.
Jace Pharmaceuticals
Major Pharmaceuticals
Mallinckrodt, Inc.
McKesson Corporation
McKesson Packaging Services
Novis Pharmaceuticals, LLC
Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical Inc.
Precision Dose, Inc.
Prodigy Health Supplier Corp.
Pharma Logistics
Reliance Wholesale, Inc.
R&S Northeast
STAT Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Stericycle, Inc.

There will be a link set up on the bottom of the Pharmacy Buyers Resources section on the *PPO* website, www.PharmacyPurchasing.com, as well as a link to a PowerPoint presentation given by **Eleni Z. Anagnostiadis**, RPh, Patient Safety Senior Manager for the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy outlining the VAWD program and other regulatory projects in the works for NABP, which you can find online directly, at: <http://64.82.65.67/health/RxSafety-Anagnostiadis-Dec06.pdf>.