

Previously labeled as Dispensing for Public Health Registered Nurses:

In 1985, legislation passed by the North Carolina General Assembly granted registered nurses in local health department clinics limited authority to dispense drugs and devices. Codified as General Statute ([G.S.](#) [90-85.34A](#)), the law provides a unique opportunity for the public health community by increasing the number of options available to meet the needs of those accessing care at the local health department. In addition, rules passed in 1987 which further explain the provisions of the statute are codified in the North Carolina Administrative Code as 21 NCAC 46.2400.

The North Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act is found in [Chapter 90, Article 4A](#) of the North Carolina General Statutes. Among the many provisions of this act are specific statutes governing the practice of pharmacy, professional conduct, administrative requirements, and certain legal rights, responsibilities, and empowerments. Supplemental to the Act, administrative rules found in the North Carolina Administrative Code at 21 NCAC 46 further describe the intent of each of the general statutes contained in the Act. Additionally, there are other statutes and rules found in law that directly affect the practice of pharmacy. The statutes and rules that affect the dispensing of drugs and devices by registered nurses in local health departments is listed below:

§ 90-85.34A. Public health pharmacy practice. <http://www.ncbop.org/LawsRules/Statutes.pdf>

- (a) A registered nurse in a local health department clinic may dispense prescription drugs and devices, other than controlled substances as defined in G.S. 90-87, under the following conditions:
  - (1) The registered nurse has training acceptable to the Board in the labeling and packaging of prescription drugs and devices;
  - (2) Dispensing by the registered nurse shall occur only at a local health department clinic;
  - (3) Only prescription drugs and devices contained in a formulary recommended by the Department of Health and Human Services and approved by the Board shall be dispensed;
  - (4) The local health department clinic shall obtain a pharmacy permit in accordance with G.S. 90-85.21;
  - (5) Written procedures for the storage, packaging, labeling and delivery of prescription drugs and devices shall be approved by the Board; and
  - (6) The pharmacist-manager, or another pharmacist at his direction, shall review dispensing records at least weekly, provide consultation where appropriate, and be responsible to the Board for all dispensing activity at the local health department clinic.
- (b) This section is applicable only to prescriptions issued on behalf of persons receiving local health department clinic services and issued by an individual authorized by law to prescribe drugs and devices.
- (c) This section does not affect the practice of nurse practitioners pursuant to G.S. 90-18.2 or of physician assistants pursuant to G.S. 90-18.1.

# PHARMACY



## Requirements for PHN to dispense:

Public health registered nurses must successfully complete training to dispense drugs and devices.

The drugs and devices dispensed must be on the formulary as listed in **21 NCAC 46 .2403** (<http://www.ncbop.org/LawsRules/rules.2400.pdf>).

The following things needs to also occur:

- the agency must have a pharmacy permit
- the individual who serves as the trainer for all PHNs who will dispense must be a Registered Pharmacist; that pharmacist may also have a PHN from the agency participate as a trainer **if that nurse was properly trained in dispensing at that local health department.**
- the training must utilize materials that have been approved by the NC Board of Pharmacy such as Dispensing of Drugs by Public Health Nurses Part 1 and Dispensing of Drugs by Public Health Nurses Part II
- please continue to create, provide, and send a copy of an attendance roster to the office PHNPDU each time a training is offered in your agency. Please send to Beth Murray at [beth.murray@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:beth.murray@dhhs.nc.gov) and “cc” Amanda Fuller Moore ([amanda.fullermoore@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:amanda.fullermoore@dhhs.nc.gov)).

## Definitions:

<http://www.ncbop.org/LawsRules/Statutes.pdf>

## Dispensing Training:

The new PHN Dispensing Training is now available below. Public Health Nurse & Professional Development Unit is **no longer** offering continuing education credits in association with the training.

Your health department pharmacist may use these materials for training, but you will need to issue your own certificate of completion and maintain your own attendance and training agenda records for Accreditation and the Board of Pharmacy.

## Dispensing Training Content:

- [Dispensing of Drugs by Public Health Registered Nurses Instructional Manual, updated June 2015](#) (PDF, 779 KB)
- [Dispensing of Drugs by Public Health Registered Nurses Training Agenda, updated June 2015](#) (PDF, 14 KB)

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- [Dispensing of Drugs by Public Health Registered Nurses Post Training Test, updated June 2015](#) (PDF, 234 KB)

## Naloxone Training Content:

- [Naloxone Chart: A Look at Dispensing Versus Distribution in North Carolina](#) (PDF, 118 KB)
- [Adopting Naloxone Standing Orders: A Toolkit for NC Local Health Departments](#) (PDF, 3 MB)
- [Dispensing of Drugs by Public Health Registered Nurses Training: Part I Addendum - Naloxone Dispensing](#) (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- [Template Standing Order for Distribution of Naloxone by Organizations](#) (DOCX, 30 KB)
- [Template Standing Order for Dispensing Naloxone to Organizations for Subsequent Distribution](#) (DOCX, 31 KB)