



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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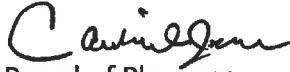
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**TO:** The Honorable Glenn Youngkin  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia

The Honorable Robert D. Orrock  
Chairman, House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions

The Honorable Louise L. Lucas  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Education and Health

**FROM:** Caroline D. Juran, RPh   
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Pharmacy  
Virginia Department of Health Professions

**DATE:** December 1, 2022

**RE:** Report on the Prescription Drug Donation Program

Pursuant to Senate Bill 14 passed during the 2022 General Assembly Session, the Board of Pharmacy provides its report from the workgroup which convened on August 11, 2022 to evaluate any challenges and barriers to participation in the prescription drug donation program established pursuant to § 54.1-3411.1 of the Code of Virginia, and ways to increase program participation, education, and outreach.

Please feel free to contact me at (804) 367-4578 or [caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov) should you have any questions.

# **Report on the Prescription Drug Donation Program**

## **Virginia Board of Pharmacy**

### **Pursuant to Chapter 703, Senate Bill 14**

**December 1, 2022**

Chapter 703, Senate Bill 14 specifies that:

*That the Board of Pharmacy shall convene a work group of interested stakeholders, including the Virginia Pharmacists Association, the Virginia Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, and the Virginia Department of Health, to evaluate any challenges and barriers to participation in the prescription drug donation program established pursuant to § [54.1-3411.1](#) of the Code of Virginia and ways to increase program participation, education, and outreach.*

*The work group shall report its findings to the Governor and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by December 1, 2022.*

In accordance with the statutory provision, the Board of Pharmacy reports the following information.

#### ***Executive Summary:***

A workgroup was convened on August 11, 2022 and was comprised of representatives from the Board of Pharmacy, Virginia Pharmacists Association, Virginia Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, Virginia Hospital and Health Care Association, Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, and the Virginia Department of Health. A complete listing of the workgroup members is enclosed (see Attachment 1). Dale St. Clair, PharmD, Chairman of the Board of Pharmacy, chaired the workgroup meeting. Following a robust discussion, the workgroup offered the following recommendations:

1. Evaluate benefits of a central donation/re-dispensing model;
2. Streamline Board of Pharmacy regulations;
3. Increase awareness of pharmacists and the public;
4. Increase free clinic participation;
5. Program should be revenue-neutral for participating pharmacies.

## ***Recommendations and Conclusions:***

### Evaluate benefits of a central donation/re-dispensing model

While Virginia does not track the success of the current drug donation program, it was believed that participation is low. Currently only 12 pharmacies are registered with the Board as collection sites for donated drugs. It was reported that free clinics receive a very small amount of donated drug for re-dispensing. The workgroup reviewed information from the National Conference of State Legislatures. It was speculated that the few states with robust programs may use a model involving a central collection and re-dispensing site for each state. Virginia's model is not centralized which may result in a lack of coordination and participation. The workgroup stated that an analysis of the various state models, including a determination of benefits, capacity, costs to state or local sites, and oversight, could be beneficial.

### Streamline Board of Pharmacy regulations

The workgroup offered the following suggestions for consideration:

- Allow a site without a pharmacy to obtain a controlled substances registration for the purpose of participating as a collection site;
- Request Board to create templates, e.g., donor form, and post online for use by collection sites;
- Amend regulations to allow donation of hazardous drugs, e.g., cancer drugs, and allow pharmacist to determine if formulation is safe for re-dispensing, or limit ineligibility to injectable hazardous drugs that requires additional admixture or compounding for donation based on (i) pharmacist's professional judgement, experience or knowledge, or (ii) available reference materials; and,
- Change expiration date associated with eligibility of donated drugs from 90 days to 60 days.

### Increase awareness of pharmacists and the public

The workgroup offered the following suggestions for increasing pharmacist awareness:

- Create Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document for Board website regarding drug donation program to increase awareness and understanding of requirements;
- Determine if the Drug Supply Chain Security Act applies to donated drugs and if not, include in a FAQ;
- Send FAQs to licensees via email and mail;
- Request professional pharmacy associations to highlight drug donation program allowances in their communications;

- Include field on pharmacy permit application and renewal for pharmacy to register as a donation site; and,
- Include question on annual pharmacist workforce survey to collect data regarding their pharmacy's level of participation with drug donation.

The workgroup offered the following suggestions for increasing public awareness:

- Media campaign by Virginia Department of Health or free clinics;
- Partner with schools for collecting unclaimed drugs at end of year;
- Partner with drug take-back events for collecting eligible drugs, in lieu of destruction; and,
- Develop brochures or handouts.

#### Increase free clinic participation

It was noted that very few free clinic pharmacies are registered collection sites, likely due to lack of awareness or product being donated. The following suggestions were offered:

- Encourage all free clinic pharmacies to register with the Board as a donation site;
- Determine if a central free clinic pharmacy could collect and re-dispense donated drugs to all free clinics using the allowance for alternate delivery;
- Obtain feedback from currently participating clinics regarding what's working and what's not;
- Explore ability for free clinic without a pharmacy permit, but with a controlled substances registration, to re-dispense donated drug; and,
- Request clinics create a list of drugs needed and communicate to donation sites for awareness.

#### Program should be revenue-neutral for participating pharmacies

It was noted that pharmacies continue to struggle financially with third-party reimbursement rates. Costs associated with the administrative burden of determining eligibility of donated drugs and transferring them to a hospital or free clinic for re-dispensing to qualifying indigent patients may deter pharmacy participation. To increase participation, it was stated that a drug donation program should be revenue-neutral. An incentive of a tax deduction for participating pharmacies or individuals should also be considered.

Attachment 1

**Workgroup Members**

Dale St. Clair, PharmD

Chairman, Board of Pharmacy Member

Kris Ratliff, DPh

Board of Pharmacy Member

Wendy Nash, PharmD

Board of Pharmacy Member

Joseph Jadallah, PharmD

Virginia Pharmacist Association

Natalie Nguyen, PharmD

Virginia Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists

Rachel Becker

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association

Rebecca Butler

Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

Alexis Page, PharmD

Virginia Department of Health