

Questions about pharmacy reform

Straight answers for students and anyone new to the discussion

What does standard of care mean?

The care a reasonably careful professional with similar preparation would provide in comparable circumstances. In reform discussions, the phrase can also refer to changes in how pharmacy practice is regulated.

What change is being discussed?

Give qualified pharmacists clearer authority and more room to use professional judgment within their training. The precise Wisconsin scope and safeguards would depend on the final law and rules.

Does Wisconsin already have a standard of care?

Wisconsin's disciplinary rule addresses practice that substantially departs from the standard of care and harms or could harm a patient. That accountability does not itself grant broad clinical authority.

Could pharmacists prescribe anything?

No. State and federal law, clinical preparation, available information, and the setting still matter. A standard of care approach is not permission to provide any treatment a pharmacist chooses.

Would every pharmacy offer every service?

Availability would depend on the final requirements and what the pharmacist and pharmacy can safely support. Readers should ask the pharmacy what it actually offers.

Sources

NASPA Standard of Care Regulatory Model updated September 29 2026

Wisconsin Administrative Code Phar 10 especially Phar 10.03(2)

Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 450

Patient care and participation

Questions about access, safety, payment, and the campaign

Would this replace a physician?

The aim is another appropriate way to access care. Patients who need more complex assessment or care should be referred. Communication and follow up help keep pharmacy care connected to the wider team.

Is the evidence conclusive?

No. Research is promising for several prescribing services, but studies vary and evidence certainty is limited. Access studies and clinical outcome studies answer different questions.

Would insurance cover it?

Not automatically. Coverage, eligibility, enrollment, contracts, codes, documentation, and payment rules are separate from legal authority. Patients should ask about likely costs before agreeing.

What should a patient ask?

Can you help with my concern? Is the service available here? What information do you need? What will it cost? Can we talk privately? What happens next?

Who is developing this campaign?

This is an MCW pharmacy student research project with Dr. Michael DeBisschop. The central plan is to collaborate with PSW and student PSW clubs at other Wisconsin schools to share the campaign.

How can students take part?

Bring the materials to a chapter meeting, share a flyer at a campus event, or post a campaign graphic. The presentation and patient examples can help your club host a conversation about pharmacy care.

Sources

Teahan Á, et al. Effectiveness and safety of pharmacist prescribing: a systematic review. *BMJ Open*. 2026;16:e112886. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2025-112886.

ForwardHealth Online Handbook pharmacist policies

PSW Student Pharmacist Advisory Committee