



Topic Designator 99: Additional Topic Areas Activity Guidance

October 2025

This document summarizes the findings from an August 2025 audit of educational activities using the topic designator of 99: Additional Topic Areas. Further, this document provides guidance on how to appropriately assign topic designator to activities based on common occurrences where a topic designator more appropriate than 99 was not used to describe an activity.

Commonly, activities labeled with the topic designator 99 could have been more appropriately labeled as 01: Disease State Management/Drug Therapy, 03: Law Related to Pharmacy Practice, 04: Pharmacy Administration, 05: Patient Safety, 06: Immunizations, 07: Compounding, and 08: Opioids/Pain Management/Substance Use Disorder. These topic designators are listed and described in Table 1.

Table 1. Topic Designators and Descriptions

Topic Designator	Description
99: Additional Topic Areas	Activities related to topics relevant to the practice of pharmacy not included in the classifications of the topic designators 01-08.
01: Disease State Management/Drug Therapy	Activities that address drugs, drug therapy, and/or disease states.
03: Law Related to Pharmacy Practice	Activities that address federal, state, or local laws and/or regulations affecting the practice of pharmacy.
04: Pharmacy Administration	Activities that address topics relevant to the practice of pharmacy that include the economic, social, administrative, and managerial aspects of pharmacy practice and health care.
05: Patient Safety	Activities that address topics relevant to the prevention of healthcare errors and the elimination or mitigation of patient injury caused by healthcare errors.
06: Immunizations	Activities related to the provision of immunizations, i.e.,

	recommend immunization schedules, administration procedures, proper storage and disposal, and record keeping. This also includes review for appropriateness or contraindication and identifying and reporting adverse drug events and providing necessary first aid.
07: Compounding	Activities related to sterile, nonsterile, and hazardous drug compounding for humans and animals. This includes best practices and USP quality assurance standards, environmental testing and control, record keeping, error detection and reporting, and continuous quality improvement processes.
08: Opioids/Pain Management/Substance Use Disorder	Activities that address any component regarding the treatment and management of pain, including the prescribing, distribution, and use of opioid medications, and/or the risks, symptoms, and treatment of opioid misuse/addiction.

General Guidance

- It is best to consider which topic designator is most appropriate in the early stages of planning an activity. Once the practice gap(s) / educational need(s) have been determined, the most appropriate topic designator may be selected. As the planning process continues, it is best to revisit these foundational ideas and ensure that the activity aligns with the identified practice gap(s) / educational need(s) and selected topic designator.
- Topic format (e.g., poster presentation, podcast), should not impact decisions regarding the assignment of topic designation.
- RSS Activities: For regularly scheduled series (RSS) activities, the same topic designator should apply to all RSS sessions. If a session within the RSS contains content which could be assigned a more appropriate topic designator, the session should be submitted as a new activity UAN with the appropriate topic designator.
- State-specific and Recertification Requirements: When submitting activities designed to meet specific state board and/or recertification requirements, select the specific state, and specify the activity topic in the Provider Web Tool. Additional guidance regarding topic designator selection may be found on the ACPE website.
- If you have additional questions or require further guidance on assigning topic designators, please contact ACPE staff at ceinfo@acpe-accredit.org.

Topic Designator Guidance

- **01: Disease State Management/Drug Therapy**

- Activities which address nonpharmacologic and medical disease state management should still be submitted with the topic designator of 01 for Disease State Management (e.g., stress/burnout, role of physical therapy or other supportive care in a specific disease state). In the description for these activities, note that the activity addressed drugs, drug therapy, and/or disease states.
- Additionally, activities should be denoted as 01 when learning objectives include OTC medications and general medication classes (e.g., contraceptives, smoking cessation, etc.)
- Supplements should also be included under the 01-topic designator (e.g., Supplements for Cognitive Function)

- **03: Law Related to Pharmacy Practice**

- Education on or impacting local, state and federal legislative updates which impact pharmacy practice should be given a 03-topic designator (e.g., Legislative and Regulatory Issues Affecting Pharmacy in [STATE] Update, Preparation, Management, & Response to Inspections/Audits). This may include, among other topics, legislative changes related to prescriptive authority, provider status, or specific bills directly related to pharmacy practice.
- Activities designed to help pharmacies develop practices to implement processes and procedures to mitigate legal actions should also be included under the 03-topic designator.

- **04: Pharmacy Administration**

- Several activities which reflect education on management, reimbursement models, developing new pharmacy services, marketing, and pharmacy operation (e.g., 340B Programs, New Clinical Services, Billing, DIR Fees, eCare plans, value-based payment models, direct contracting) should continue to be assigned a topic designator of 04 for Pharmacy Administration.
- Topics regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and/or other technology (e.g., LinkedIn) directly relating to pharmacy management / administration (e.g., Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy Practice, Igniting Use of AI in Pharmacy Practice) should be designated as 04: Pharmacy Administration.
- Activities relating to leadership with a focus on management of pharmacy staff (e.g., Inspiring Leaders in Pharmacy, How Leadership Styles Shape the Art of Feedback, Psychologically healthy leadership for the pharmaceutical professional) should be given a 04-topic designator.

- Education focused on enhanced practice networks and initiatives (CPESN, Flip-the-Pharmacy) should be included under the 04-topic designator.
- 05: Patient Safety
 - Activities focused on Just Culture, deprescribing, and other strategies and/or interventions used to promote patient safety and safe medication use on the individual and organizational level (e.g., Bridging Evidence and Practice: Enhancing Patient Safety with Intravenous Medication Compatibility Research) should be assigned a topic designator of 05 for Patient Safety.
- 06: Immunizations
 - Topics which apply to safety and proper disposal of needles (e.g., OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens), even if not directly discussing immunizations, should be categorized as topic designator 06 as the activity is directly applicable to the provision of immunizations.
- 07: Compounding
 - Activities which relate to pharmaceutical compounding which do not directly discuss the active compounding of medication should be given a 07-topic designator.
- 08: Opioids/Pain Management/Substance Use Disorder
 - All activities providing education on opioids should be submitted with the topic designator of 08 for Pain Management. This is true of activities related to ethical considerations for pain management using opioids, substance use disorders (SUD) containing opioid-related content, and opioid antagonists used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids (i.e., naloxone).
 - Activities which directly relate to the proper use and distribution of opioid medication, even if not specific to only opioid medication, should be assigned a topic designator of 08 for Opioids/Pain Management/Substance Use Disorder.

When submitting an activity, the keywords and activity examples included in Table 2 can serve as guidance to assure the most appropriate topic designator is selected.

Table 2. Topic Designators, Key Words, and Activity Examples to Guide Topic Designator Assignment

Topic Designator	Key Words or Descriptives	Activity Examples
01: Disease State	Condition Specific Terms (i.e., Acute	Nonoperative vs. Operative <u>Management of Acute</u>

<p>Management / Drug Therapy</p>	<p>Appendicitis); Pharmacology; Medication Classes (i.e., Contraceptives)</p>	<p><u>Appendicitis in Older Adults</u></p> <p>Introduction to <u>Psychedelic Psychopharmacology</u></p> <p><u>Smoking Cessation: Helping Patients Quit</u></p> <p><u>Contraception: A Primer for Pharmacists</u></p> <p>Podcast: <u>Medication Management</u> During Ramadan</p>
<p>03: Law Related to Pharmacy Practice</p>	<p>Senate Bill; House Bill; Legislative Updates; Regulatory Updates; Legal Action; Laws related to Provider Status or Prescriptive Authority; Legal; State or Federal Laws or Legal Requirements</p>	<p>Documentation To <u>Avoid Legal Actions</u></p> <p>[STATE]: An Update to the [STATE] <u>Legislature</u></p> <p>Description of Pharmacist-Provided Clinical Services Implementation under State <u>Senate Bill [#]</u></p> <p><u>Legislative and Regulatory Issues Affecting Pharmacy in [STATE]</u></p> <p>Essential Access Health: <u>Senate Bill [#]: Expanded Access to Expedited Partner Therapy for Pharmacists</u></p> <p>Preparation, Management, & Response to <u>Inspections/Audits</u></p>
<p>04: Pharmacy Administration</p>	<p>Pharmacy Service, Process, or Program; Billing; Reimbursement Models; 340B; Marketing; eCare plans; CPESN; Flip-the-Pharmacy; Research on Pharmacy Services; Burnout; Leadership; Management; Administration</p>	<p>Eliminating the Middleman: <u>Building a Cost-Plus Insurance-Free Pharmacy</u></p> <p><u>Flip the Pharmacy's Impact on Pharmacy Engagement in a Payer Program for Patient Care Services</u></p> <p>Update on <u>340B</u> & Pharmacy Impact</p> <p>[SATE] <u>Medicaid (and PBM) Compliance Program Requirements</u></p> <p><u>Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy Practice: Opportunities and Challenges</u></p> <p>How <u>Leadership Styles</u> Shape the Art of <u>Feedback</u></p>
<p>05: Patient Safety</p>	<p>Just Culture; Deprescribing; Safe Use of Medications; Safety Evaluation and Surveillance</p>	<p><u>Deprescribing: How to Ensure that Older Adults Take the Right Number of Medications. Nothing More Nothing Less</u></p> <p><u>Just Culture: Safety is Everyone's Culture</u></p> <p>Bridging Evidence and Practice: <u>Enhancing Patient Safety with Intravenous Medication Compatibility Research</u></p>

06: Immunizations	Immunizations	OSHA <u>Bloodborne Pathogens</u>
07: Compounding	Compounding; Sterile Compounding; Aseptic Manufacturing	<u>Drugs Formulation Compounding Oh My! Understanding USPs Formulation Development Reference Document for Pharmaceutical Compounding</u>
08: Opioids / Pain Management / Substance Use Disorder	Opioids, Substance Use Disorder; Opioid Crisis; Pain Management; Drug Overdose; Naloxone; Addiction	<p>Using MI/MET to Discuss Opioid Safety and Chronic Pain with Veterans</p> <p>Opioids: The Pharmacists Role in the Opioid Epidemic</p> <p>Reducing Risk & Saving Lives: Provider and Staff Naloxone Education</p> <p>Establishing Performance Improvement Baseline and Implementing a Project Plan for <u>Controlled Substance Diversion</u></p>