

RoundtableRx

Minnesota Medication Repository Program

Legislative Session 2025

RoundtableRx, the nonprofit designated by the Board of Pharmacy to operate the Minnesota Medication Repository Program, is advancing legislation this session focused on both budgetary needs and policy improvements. The proposed policy changes aim to amend MN § 151.555 Subd. 6 & Subd. 10.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- [HF 1103](#)
- **Chief Author** – Rep. Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger (DFL)
- **Co-Authors** – Schomacker (R); Reyer (DFL); Nadeau (R); Elkins (DFL); Bahner (DFL); Bierman (DFL); Zeleznikar (R)

SENATE

- [SF 1785](#)
- **Chief Author** – Sen. Alice Mann (DFL)
- **Co-Authors** – Koran (R); Abeler (R)

BUDGET

- **2024 & 2025 Fiscal Years:** The Legislature appropriated \$450,000 per year from the general fund to the Board of Pharmacy. That money was passed onto RoundtableRx as a grant and is used to support the operations and administration of the repository.
- **2026 Fiscal Year & Beyond:** Base funding of \$900,000 per year for the Minnesota Medication Repository Program. Why?
 - Booming demand on the central repository, with nearly a 300% increase in medications distributed since July 2023.
 - Opening a pharmacy.

POLICY

MN § 151.555 Subd. 6

Allow RoundtableRx's pharmacy to purchase drugs from a licensed wholesaler. Donated drugs must be used whenever possible. Why?

- Such purchases would be made only when the RoundtableRx pharmacy has a prescription but does not have sufficient quantity of donated stock to fill it. For example, a prescription might be for a 14-day supply of an antibiotic, but the repository might have only a 10-day supply of donated product in stock. In such a situation, it would be critical for the patient to receive the entire 14-day supply to avoid a treatment failure.
- This is common practice for other states when the repository program operates a dispensing pharmacy.

MN § 151.555 Subd. 10

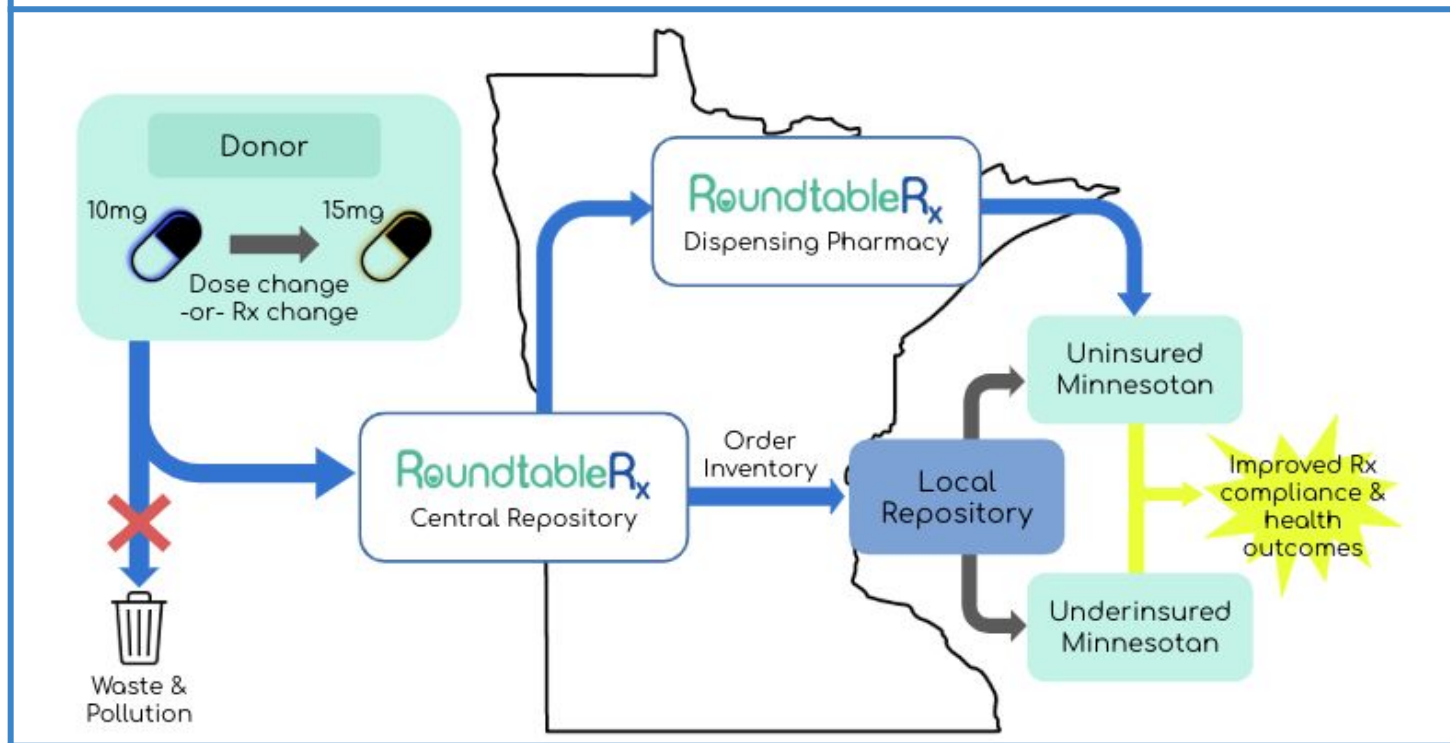
Clarify that Local Repositories are allowed to destroy donated medicine not suitable for dispensing. Why?

- The Board of Pharmacy has requested this be clarified in the statutes.
- Presently, statutes indicate a Local Repository can destroy donated medications if they are subject to a recall, but it is not clear that the Local Repository can destroy the donated medication if it is unsuitable for dispensing, such as being damaged in transit or expiring before it can be dispensed.

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RoundtableRx Operations Overview



How does it work?

Medications and medical supplies are donated to the Central Repository (RoundtableRx), inspected by a pharmacist for quality, then entered into inventory. Partner clinics and pharmacies, known as Local Repositories, can access the inventory, order medications, and dispense them at little to no-cost to their patients.

Who does RoundtableRx serve?

Our medications are available to uninsured or 'underinsured' Minnesota residents. Because our inventory fluctuates, RoundtableRx is a safety net program, providing affordable medications during challenging times (coverage lapse, etc.), or for those that do not qualify for insurance.

Is it safe?

Quality and safety is a top priority at RoundtableRx. Pharmacists inspect every donation to ensure it meets stringent safety criteria before being accepted, including:

- Unopened, tamper-evident packaging
- Not a controlled substance (opioids, etc.)
- Unexpired
- Stored properly

How are repositories funded?

RoundtableRx is currently funded through public donations and grants, including from the state. A majority of operational U.S. medication repository programs receive state funding. Financial support from the state is essential to sustain program operations and administration.

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A Problem: Medication Waste & Unaffordability




Long-term care (LTC) facilities discard an estimated \$2 billion worth of safe, reusable medications every year in the U.S. At the same time, a quarter of Americans report difficulty affording their prescriptions, and 3 in 10 do not take them as prescribed due to cost. Many of the very medications that patients struggle to afford are the same ones being wasted in the LTC industry. This disconnect results in both an environmental and public health crisis—usable medicine is needlessly destroyed while patients suffer the consequences of untreated conditions.

A Solution: Medication Repository Programs

Medication repository programs, like RoundtableRx, help bridge this gap by collecting unused, unexpired medications and redistributing them to patients who are uninsured or underinsured.

RoundtableRx received our first medication donation in December 2020 and distributed our first medication to a Minnesotan in need in March 2021. The program has expanded and demand has boomed year-over-year. With RoundtableRx being modeled after similar programs in Iowa (est. 2007) and Wyoming (est. 2007), RoundtableRx is on track to make a comparative impact, especially once the dispensing pharmacy is opened.

Impact of Medication Repository Programs

Repository Program	 MN (est. 2020) Operating less than 5 yrs	 IA (est. 2007) Operating 17 yrs	 WY (est. 2007) Operating 17 yrs
Donated Medications	\$3,449,060 worth of acceptable donations	\$141,563,499 worth of medications donated	Over 147,500 pounds of medications donated
Patients Served	585 Minnesota residents have used RoundtableRx, with 1 in 3 returning for refills	154,574 Iowa patients have used SafeNetRx	An average of 2,150 Wyoming patients are served annually
Medication Distributed	More than 268,000 doses valued at \$803,946 have provided 182,970 days worth of medicine	\$7,662,324 worth of medicine	Over 286,000 prescriptions filled valued at nearly \$34,000,000

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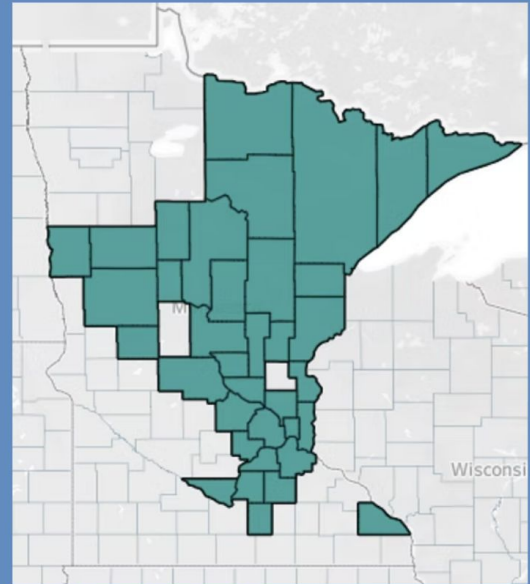
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Impact Through Local Repositories

RoundtableRx has **39 Local Repository partners in 20 counties*** dispensing our no-cost medicine. However, the patients being served reside in 26 unique counties, and 74% of patients reside in a Greater Minnesota county.

One such Local Repository is the Saint Peter Community Free Clinic. The clinic's Coordinator, Carolyn Stelter MD, had this to say: *"We are a very small Free Clinic seeing only 4-6 patients one evening a week. We have only about 15 patients that we routinely see on a regular basis and it is those for which we try to get their medicines from RoundtableRx. Several are husband/wife and if we decrease their cost of medicines by 90% that goes a long way. Most of our patients are working poor and often did not refill their medicines regularly due to finances and transportation issues. We have found better medicine compliance by providing their medicines through RoundtableRx."*

Patient County of Residence



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Individuals that received medicine from RoundtableRx reside in 36 unique counties, with 74% of patients being in Greater Minnesota.

Impact for the Patient

After a Crow Wing County senior received a kidney transplant, they were shocked that one anti-rejection medicine would cost over \$430 per month even with insurance. Their pharmacist secured their medicine from RoundtableRx, providing their fixed income family some relief. *"It gives us peace of mind. My husband will need to be on these needed drugs the rest of his life - to know we can afford them really helps us to move forward."* – Anonymous testimonial from a patient

RoundtableRx Next Steps:

- **Launch a Dispensing Pharmacy** – We will fill and mail prescriptions at no cost to eligible Minnesotans, ensuring statewide access to RoundtableRx medications.
- **Expand Medication Donations** – We continue to seek donations of unused, unexpired medications from healthcare facilities and individuals.
- **Grow Local Repository Partnerships** – We are expanding collaborations with clinics and pharmacies, particularly in greater Minnesota, to improve access to RoundtableRx for more uninsured and underinsured residents.

*Values as of January 31th, 2025.

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