# FAQs: 2027 Medication Adherence Team Challenge

## Key Dates

- **December 31, 2026:** Letter of Intent due
- **January 1 – March 31, 2027:** Challenge activities
- **April 16, 2027** (11:59pm ET): Final report due
- **Mid-May 2027**: Awardees notified

## About the Challenge

**What is the Script Your Future Team Challenge?**
An annual, three-month outreach campaign (January–March) led by the National Consumers League (NCL) that invites faculty and students from schools of pharmacy and other health professions to promote **medication adherence** and **vaccine confidence** in their communities. At the end of the Challenge, top-performing teams receive national recognition.

**Why focus on medication adherence?**

- Nearly **half** of medications prescribed for chronic diseases are not taken as directed.
- Nonadherence contributes to ~**125,000 deaths** and **10% of hospitalizations** each year.
- It costs the healthcare system an estimated **$100-$290 billion** annually.
- Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected.

Many factors contribute to nonadherence, including financial barriers and lack of access to care. Understanding how social determinants of health contribute to these challenges can help inform more effective interventions.

**Why work with students?**
Today's students are tomorrow's providers! By applying what they learn in real-world settings, students can help tackle the social and structural factors that drive disparities in healthcare and medication adherence among minority and underserved populations.

## Joining the Challenge

**How does my school join?**

1. **Form a team:** Each team must include one school/college of pharmacy. Teams may also include an additional health professions school (e.g., public health). Partnering with community organizations or health departments is encouraged! A school/college of pharmacy may have more than one team.
2. **Name points of contact:** Each team must identify a faculty contact (a dean or faculty advisor from the pharmacy school) and a student representative.
3. **Submit a Letter of Intent** by email to syf@nclnet.org by **December 31, 2026**. Letters submitted after this date will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**What must the Letter of Intent include?**

- Name of the pharmacy school/college and any other participating schools
- Faculty contact: name, email, phone number
- Student contact: name, school and personal email, phone number

A short email is fine! You don't need to include formal details or a project plan. Please note that teams that do not submit a Letter of Intent are not eligible for awards.

**Will there be a kickoff webinar?**
Not this year, but you can watch the 2025 kickoff webinar on NCL's YouTube page. Please refer to the dates in *this* FAQ for the correct deadlines.

**Can other health professions schools participate?**
Yes! Teams can earn extra points for meaningful engagement with an additional health professions school, community organization, or other entity.

**Can faculty and staff participate?**
Yes. Faculty and staff are encouraged to champion the Team Challenge whenever possible, including through their work with community partners, experiential education sites (e.g., hospitals, infusion centers, and other settings where pharmacy students complete clinical training), and student organizations.

**My school has multiple campuses. Do we need to work together as one team?**
It's up to you. However, each separate team must submit its own Letter of intent, conduct its own activities, and submit its own final report.

## Team Challenge Activities

**What are the requirements?**
Activities must focus on medication adherence and take place between **January 1 – March 31, 2027**. You can choose when to conduct your activities within that timeframe.

**Is there a theme, and do we have to stick to it?**
This year's Team Challenge theme is **Brain Health**! Students are encouraged to educate their communities about the connection between managing chronic conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol, and reducing the risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. This could include exploring how consistently taking prescribed medications to manage chronic conditions can support long-term brain health.

However, we recognize that people face many barriers to accessing and taking their medications as prescribed. Teams are **not required** to plan outreach activities around the Brain Health theme, and choosing a different focus will not count against your team.

**What kinds of projects can we do?**
We encourage you to identify your community's needs and develop outreach activities to meet them. You can come up with your own ideas or partner with existing community resources. A few ideas to get you started:

- Hosting vaccination drives
- Speaking at community health events
- Conducting medication assessments at health fairs
- Distributing campaign materials at local pharmacies

- Using state immunization registries to identify patients due for vaccine doses
- Creating podcasts or videos about medical conditions and the role of medication adherence
- Writing letters to the editor
- Meeting with local legislators

Places of worship and community organizations that reach underserved communities can also be great partners.

**Can we do one project or several projects?**
Either works! Multiple projects can increase your reach, but a single, well-executed project can be just as successful. Judges will evaluate only the activities included in your final report, so be sure to report on every project with the same level of detail.

**How do we distinguish Team Challenge activities from our regular outreach?**
Use Script Your Future materials (print or digital) in a creative way and focus specifically on medication adherence, whether within the Brain Health theme or another theme of your choosing.

**Can schools or partners provide financial support?**
Yes. If your team receives financial or in-kind support, please note the source and how it was used in your final report.

**Will Script Your Future provide ongoing support?**
Yes! NCL staff are available to answer questions throughout the Challenge. We can also provide printed wallet cards in several languages and other campaign materials upon request.

## Final Report

**What is the Team Challenge Report?**
A document of up to five pages describing your team's activities. Please include:

- **Program intervention:** A description of the intervention(s) students conducted.
- ***Outcomes measured:** May include the populations targeted (e.g., seniors, young adults, parents); total volunteer hours; materials distributed (e.g., SYF wallet cards); and the number of patients or consumers reached.
- **Team impact:** A description of what the activities accomplished and how they affected the target population(s).

*Teams are encouraged to evaluate their activities in ways that also support their academic work. Past teams have turned their results into poster sessions and conference presentations.

**Optional appendices** (not counted toward page limit) may include event logs, press coverage and photos, social media materials, participant letters or narratives, educational videos, etc.

**When is the report due, and how do I submit it?**
Email it to kerryl@nclnet.org and syf@nclnet.org by **11:59pm ET on Friday, April 16, 2027**.

# Judging and Awards

**What are the awards? What do winning teams receive?**
Volunteer judges will review all reports, and six teams will receive national recognition. Awardees will be notified around mid-May 2027.

The six award categories are:

1. **National Award:** Overall project demonstrating thoughtful planning, successful execution, and potential for impact during the Team Challenge and beyond.
2. **Media/Technology Award:** Creative and effective use of media (including social media), digital platforms, or other technology to support project activities.
3. **Interprofessional Award:** Collaboration between pharmacy students and students from other health professions programs at their institution (e.g., medicine, nursing, dentistry)
4. **Underrepresented Community Outreach Award:** Outreach and engagement with underrepresented or medically underserved communities.
5. **Best Use of the 2027 Theme Award:** Meaningful integration of this year's Brain Health theme into project activities.
6. **Rookie Award:** Strong participation and engagement from a first-time Team Challenge participant.

Each winning school receives a commemorative certificate, a press release, a spotlight on the Script Your Future website and social media, and a small financial stipend.

**How are projects judged?**
Please review the scoring rubric on the Team Challenge Materials page. Judges will consider:

- Creativity and originality
- Interprofessional team composition and focus
- Use of Script Your Future materials
- Impact and outcomes (e.g., volunteer hours, talks or presentations given and their estimated audience size, media impressions, pledge signatures)

For inspiration, visit the Script Your Future website and read through press releases featuring past winners.

**Questions?** Email syf@nclnet.org or kerryl@nclnet.org. Good luck!