



Newfoundland and
Labrador Pharmacy Board

*The Apothecary is the
newsletter of the
Newfoundland &
Labrador Pharmacy
Board.*

*It contains information
on a wide variety of
topics intended to
enhance the practice
of all pharmacists in
the province of
Newfoundland &
Labrador.*

*Pharmacists are
responsible for
reviewing any and all
information contained
within including
documents which are
made available on the
NLPB website via links
throughout the
newsletter.*

*The Apothecary is now
circulated
electronically and is
available in hard copy
format only upon
specific request.*

The Apothecary

Fall 2014

NLPB to Begin Registering Pharmacy Technicians in 2015

Following many years of preparation and consultation, the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board will be recognizing Pharmacy Technicians as the newest regulated health professional in the province starting in 2015.

The term Pharmacy Technician (R.Pt.) is a protected title in the *Pharmacy Act, 2012* and only those individuals registered with NLPB may use the designation in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The regulation of pharmacy technicians helps fulfill two of the Board's primary goals: protecting the public and optimizing the use of pharmacy professionals' skills. By regulating pharmacy technicians, NLPB and the public can be assured that Pharmacy Technicians have met entry-to-practice requirements and are competent to take on more responsibility within the compounding and dispensing functions.

While pharmacists must still assess the appropriateness of each prescription and provide patient consultation, pharmacy technicians will be able to compound and dispense drugs without a pharmacist having to perform the final check. They will also be able to supervise other technicians, assistants and pharmacy technician students in the pharmacy. For more information on the scope of a pharmacy technician's practice, please see the *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians* at <http://napra.ca/Content Files/Files/Model Standards of Prac for Cdn PharmTechs Nov11.pdf>.

Patients will benefit - pharmacists, freed from the technical aspects of dispensing, will be able to focus on more comprehensive patient care such as medication reviews, chronic disease management, immunization, and follow-up.

Pharmacists will benefit - the work of prescription processing and preparation can shift from them to the technician, thereby allowing pharmacists to more appropriately use their skills and knowledge to deliver patient care.

Pharmacy technicians will benefit - by having met defined standards for education and competency, they will have the knowledge, skills, legal authority and confidence to practice more independently and to take on more authority.

Margot Fiddale

Pharmacy Technician Registration Pathway

While discussing the upcoming registration of Pharmacy Technicians by the NLPB, we felt it would be appropriate to review the pharmacy technician education and registration process.

Transition Pathway

Prior to applying to be registered with the Board, candidates currently employed as a pharmacy assistant must complete several courses and exams as well as a practical training component as described below.

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Evaluating Exam

This is a written multiple choice exam with specific eligibility criteria—applicants must show proof of a minimum of 2000 hours of work in the field of pharmacy in the 36 months prior to the exam. This exam is offered at several sites in the province in April and October of each year. For more information, candidates should contact PEBC at www.pebc.ca.

National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program

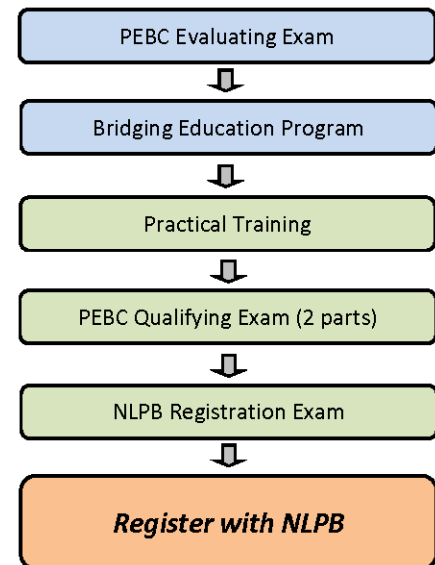
This program was developed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) in conjunction with the provinces. It consists of four individual courses that may be completed in any order—Management of Drug Distribution Systems, Pharmacology, Product Preparation and Professional Practice. The program is currently being offered online by Selkirk College. For more information, interested candidates can visit the NAPRA website at: www.napra.ca/pages/bridgingprogram/default.aspx.

PEBC Qualifying Exam

This is a national entry-to-practice exam designed to assess the competence of Pharmacy Technicians for the purposes of registration. It consists of two parts—Part I is a written multiple choice exam; Part II is an Objective Structured Practical Examination (“OSPE”). Generally, applicants must have either graduated from a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician program or have successfully completed the PEBC Evaluating Examination prior to being authorized to write this exam. It is offered at several sites in March and September of each year but has not yet been offered in NL. The Board is working with PEBC on this anticipates that NL will be added to the list of available sitting locations for Part I in March 2015 and for Part II in September 2015. More information will be communicated as it becomes available. In the meantime, interested candidates can visit the PEBC website at www.pebc.ca.

Practical Training Program

In the transition pathway, candidates will complete a practical assessment with an approved preceptor over an undefined period of time. The assessment will include verification of the accuracy of the final



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check as well as additional activities, based on the NAPRA Competencies, that are designed to evaluate the candidate's communication skills, their ability to accurately and reliably receive verbal orders as well as to receive and send prescription transfers. More information on this program will be posted to the Registration and Authorization Information for Registrants [page](#) of the NLPB website as it becomes available over the next few months.

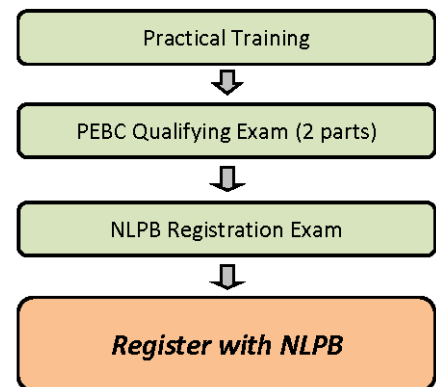
NLPB Registration Exam

The NLPB Registration Exam is a two part exam. Part I consists of multiple choice questions and Part II consists of short answer type questions. The exam will continue to be offered on a bi-monthly basis with the opportunity to write a special sitting if necessary. More information on this exam can be found in the [NLPB Registration Examination Interpretation Guide](#), available on the Registration and Authorization Information for Registrants [page](#) of the NLPB website.

Graduates of CCAPP-Accredited Programs

Applicants who have graduated from a CCAPP-accredited Pharmacy Technician program are able to bypass the PEBC Evaluating Exam as well as the Bridging Education Program. They will also complete a slightly different practical training program in that they will complete the program over a defined eight week period. In June 2014, Keyin College in Grand Falls-Windsor received Provisional Accreditation Status and will begin accepting students into this new program in January of 2015. No other pharmacy technician program in this province has received CCAPP accreditation at this time.

For more information on this process, please visit the Pharmacy Technician Regulation News [page](#) of the NLPB website. Interested parties can also submit their name and email address to inforx@nlpb.ca to be added to a contact list to receive more information as it becomes available.



Registrant Portal Time-Out

Pharmacists are reminded that from the time you log in to your NLPB registrant profile, the system is set to time out after two hours.

If you are documenting in your learning portfolio record and do not think you will be able to complete it in this period of time, type your notes in a Word or Notepad document before going online and then just "Copy" and "Paste" your notes into your learning record.

Annual Renewal for 2015

The 2015 annual renewal for pharmacists and pharmacies is now open!

Pharmacists:

- All pharmacists are required to complete the online registration renewal process including payment by November 30, 2014.
- To enable the renewal button to appear on the registrant's home page, practicing pharmacists must first enter a minimum of 15 hours of professional development learning activities. To do this, log in to your account on the NLPB website and access the Professional Development section. A handy guide to using the online Professional Development portal is available in that section.
- Pharmacists are reminded that the 2014 professional development year runs from December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014. A minimum of 7.5 hours of learning must be from accredited learning activities.

The remaining activities can be from either accredited sources or self-assigned learning activities.

- Please note that if a registrant has not renewed by the deadline, a late payment fee will be automatically applied to the balance.

Pharmacies:

- To renew the pharmacy's licence, the Pharmacist in Charge must log in with his or her unique Pharmacist in Charge username and password, which was emailed on October 17.
- Please note that while the pharmacy licence may be renewed and paid, the licence will not be issued and mailed until the Pharmacist in Charge has renewed their own registration.

If you have any questions, please contact Aileen or Meghan at the Board office.

Staying Connected as a Non-Practicing Pharmacist

Beginning in 2015, in accordance with the new regulations, non-practicing and retired pharmacists will no longer need to register with the Board through the online system and pay an annual renewal fee.

Non-Practicing and Retired Pharmacists who were registered in Newfoundland and Labrador and who are no longer practicing can stay connected to the profession by voluntarily enrolling their name with the Board. Non-practicing pharmacists enrolled with the Board will continue to receive Board communications, keeping you in touch with the profession.

To request to have your name added to the list of Non-Practicing Pharmacists, please contact the NLPB at inforx@nlpb.ca. If you know of a pharmacist who was previously registered in Newfoundland and Labrador and who may be interested in being added to the list, please pass this information on – we would be glad to hear from them!

Meet Your New Board Members



Taggarty Norris

Taggarty graduated from Memorial University School of Pharmacy in 2011 and, since then, has been practicing pharmacy at Lawtons Drugs on Topsail Road in St. John's. In addition, she currently serves as a consultant pharmacist for Sobeys Pharmacy Group's COPD Pharmacist Intervention Project. Taggarty strives to inspire young pharmacists to become involved in their profession as well as to encourage young women to pursue a career in pharmacy. Taggarty currently lives in Mount Pearl with her husband, Ryan.



Chad Parsons

Chad graduated from MUN School of Pharmacy in 2003 and started his career as a staff pharmacist at Shoppers Drug Mart in Carbonear. He completed the Shoppers Drug Mart Leadership Excellence and Development program and became the Associate/Owner of Shoppers Drug Mart, Goulds in 2006. As a practicing pharmacist and pharmacy owner, Chad is glad to see the profession evolve and actively promotes expanded scopes of practice among his pharmacy team members. His wife, Nancy, also a pharmacist, practices in both an independent community pharmacy and hospital setting. Chad currently resides in Bay Roberts with Nancy and their two children, Ben and Ava.



Jody Pomeroy

Jody graduated from Memorial University School of Pharmacy in 2006 and initially practiced in community pharmacy before moving to Central Health in Grand Falls-Windsor in 2009. Jody is very excited to see the move towards Pharmacy Technician regulation in NL, having participated in the development of the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Exam for several years. While his primary practice site is hospital pharmacy, Jody continues to provide relief services to community pharmacies. Jody currently lives in Grand Falls-Windsor with his wife, Tonya and their son, Nicholas.

Recent Board Activities

At the Board's most recent meeting on August 29, 2014:

- The Board gave final approval to the revised **Code of Ethics**. Pharmacists-in-Charge will receive a poster-sized version suitable for framing and display in the pharmacy while each registrant will be sent an individual copy for their records.
- New **Standards for the Safe and Effective Provision of Medication for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence** were approved and replace the existing *Standards of Practice for the Methadone Maintenance Program* as well as the *Guidelines regarding Dispensing Buprenorphine for the Management of Opioid Dependence*). The Board also adopted the following implementation plan for the new Standards:
 - ⇒ Standards in force – January 1, 2015
 - ⇒ For those not already treating patients, adherence to the Standard is required upon application.
 - ⇒ For those already treating patients:
 - * Full transition to Methadose® – by February 1, 2015
 - * Completion of required education program – by November 30, 2015
 - * Completion of necessary physical changes – by November 30, 2015, unless specific exemption has been given by the Board

- The Board approved a final draft of the new **Pharmacy Regulations, 2014**. These regulations accompany the *Pharmacy Act, 2012* and cover areas such as:

- ⇒ Registration requirements including those for pharmacy technicians
- ⇒ New qualifications and duties for the Pharmacist-in-Charge
- ⇒ Revisions to the approval process for the Provincial Drug Schedules

These regulations are now awaiting final approval from the Minister of Health and Community Services.

- The Board approved **Practice Experience Requirements for Pharmacy Technicians**:

- ⇒ Bridging Candidates will be expected to complete a practical assessment with an approved preceptor over an undefined period of time. The assessment includes verification of the accuracy of the final check as well as additional activities based on the NAPRA Competencies.
- ⇒ Graduates of CCAPP-Accredited Programs will complete an 8-week training period with an approved preceptor. This training period will also utilize a manual detailing a number of specific activities based on the NAPRA Competencies.

Postscript Recap

Since the last issue of The Apothecary, we have circulated three issues of The Postscript, as summarized below. Please visit the [NLPB Newsletters page](#) of the NLPB website to view all past issues.

Issue #1—August 7, 2014

- Welcome to NLPB's e-news premiere!
- Upcoming Board Election
- Documentation of Injection Education Program on Learning Portfolio
- Optometrist Prescribing
- Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Education Program

Issue #2—September 2, 2014

- Board Elections Reminder
- Reporting Renovations
- Filling Prescriptions from Out of Province Prescribers
- Feedback Requested on Entry-to-Practice Doctor of Pharmacy Program at Memorial University

Issue #3—October 1, 2014

- New Code of Ethics for Registrants approved by the Board
- Board Election Results
- New Standards for the Safe and Effective Provision of Medication for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence approved by the Board
- Medication Management—Reminders for Pharmacists
- The Prescribing Course—Safe Opioid Prescribing for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Members

Zone 1 Debbie Kelly
Zone 2 Ray Gulliver
Zone 3 David Cramm
Zone 4 Christina Tulk
At Large Taggart Norris, Chad Parsons, Jody Pomeroy

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..... Shirlene Murphy
Government-appointed Ruby Chaytor
..... Gerri Thompson
Dean, MUN School of Pharmacy Carlo Marra
Pharmacy Technician vacant
MUPS Representative (observer) Ashley Rideout

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