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

Winter 2011

As the Christmas Season approaches and the year draws to an end, we take this opportunity to wish you and those dear to you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes from all of us at the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board.

Meghan Handrigan M Healey Aileen O'Kuhe Arlene Crane Arnold Hann

Holiday Hours for NLPB Office

With the Christmas and New Year holiday season approaching please note the holiday hours of operation for the Board office:

Monday, Dec 26th	Closed (for Boxing Day holiday)
Tuesday, Dec 27th	Closed (for Christmas Day holiday)
Monday, Jan 2nd	Closed (for New Year's Day holiday)

During the holidays mail may be left in the mail slot of our fire exit door. Messages may also be left on our telephone answering machine, by fax, or by e-mailing one of the Board staff members at the email addresses listed at the back of this newsletter.

Pharmacists are advised that while Professional Development Logs must normally be received no later than December 31st, due to the holiday schedule, if your PD Log is received after 4:30 pm on December 30th it WILL NOT BE PROCESSED AND YOUR REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE RENEWED until January 3rd.

Alberta Pharmacist Fined $15K for Snooping Through Health Files

A former Edmonton pharmacist has been fined $15,000 after admitting she snooped through the health files of several people.

The office of the privacy commissioner says Marianne Songgadan was charged after the office received a complaint from a woman in August 2010.

The woman said the pharmacist had used Alberta's electronic health records to get information about her.

She also said details about a prescription drug she had taken were posted on Facebook.

Three other women came forward after the initial allegations to complain about the same pharmacist.

> Woman says pharmacist used EHR to obtain her prescription drug information and posted details on Facebook.

An audit by the privacy office found the health information of eight other individuals had been compromised.

Privacy commissioner Frank Work says it was a serious violation of the Health Information Act.

"Snooping through health information for personal purposes will not be tolerated and there will be prosecution," he said in a release Tuesday.

"This office has the responsibility of overseeing the protection of health information and we will not hesitate to prosecute."

It's the second prosecution under the act. A medical clerk from Calgary pleaded guilty to lifting health information in 2007 and was fined $10,000.

The original complainant alleged that Songgadan had taken information from the woman's health records for the purpose of humiliating her in front of her peers and as revenge for a personal conflict.

Privacy investigators learned that Songgadan had become involved in a conflict with several women who attended her church in the summer of 2009. The disagreement related to the romantic interests and activities of one of the male members of the congregation.

The women made a complaint to the church about Songgadan's conduct. It was after that that she looked at their electronic health records and posted what medications they were taking on Facebook.

A detailed review of Songgadan's use of Alberta Netcare revealed unauthorized access to the files of eight additional individuals. She identified most of them as people who may have been sympathetic to the complainants.

Songgadan was charged in April with 11 counts of knowingly obtaining or attempting to obtain health information in contravention of the Health Information Act. She pleaded guilty to a single charge on Monday.

The original complainant also went to the Alberta College of Pharmacists, which ruled that Songgadan's actions were unprofessional. She was fined $4,000 and suspended.

She is currently licensed and practising in Ontario.

Songgadan has apologized to the complainants.

Reprinted from Canadian Healthcare Network article, December 7, 2011

Complaints and Discipline Update

Case #1

An allegation was received from a patient that his privacy had been violated when a pharmacist discussed his prescription and the medication he was prescribed in the presence of non-pharmacist staff.

A panel of the Complaints Authorization Committee met to consider the letter of allegation and found that there were reasonable grounds to believe the respondent had engaged in conduct deserving of sanction and that the allegation be considered a complaint. In accordance with section 39(3)(b) of the *Pharmacy Act*, the panel instructed the Secretary-Registrar to file the complaint and refer it to the disciplinary panel.

Subsequently, a hearing was held at which an Adjudication Tribunal of the Disciplinary Panel heard the case. At this hearing, there was conflicting evidence heard from the complainant and the respondent leaving the panel "unable to conclude there were any inherent probabilities or improbabilities in the evidence of either party". The panel concluded that either version of the events was a possibility, but no more than a possibility and not a probability. Therefore, the panel dismissed the complaint and found the respondent not guilty of conduct deserving of sanction due to the fact that the burden of proof had not been met. However, the panel did have concerns regarding whether or not the respondent had a sufficient comprehension and understanding of the obligations placed on him/her by the *Standards of Pharmacy Practice - Privacy and Confidentiality of Personal Health Information* and the *Code of Ethics for Pharmacists*. For that reason, the panel ordered the respondent to confirm in writing to the Pharmacy Board, within 14 days of the receipt of the decision, that (s)he has reviewed in detail and understands the *Standards of Pharmacy Practice - Privacy and Confidentiality of Personal Health Information* and the *Code of Ethics for Pharmacists*. The respondent has met this requirement and the case is now closed.

Case #2

An allegation was received from a pharmacist alleging that a pharmacy was operating outside of the Standards of Pharmacy Practice - Lock and Leave for Community Pharmacies.

A panel of the Complaints Authorization Committee met to consider the letter of allegation and found that there were reasonable grounds to believe the respondent (the Pharmacist-in-Charge) had engaged in conduct deserving of sanction and that the allegation be considered a complaint. In accordance with section 39 (3)(a) of the Pharmacy Act, the panel issued a counsel or caution to the respondent that the professional services area of the pharmacy (i.e the dispensary, active prescription records and all shelves, displays or fixtures bearing Schedule I or II drugs) shall not be accessible to the public or non-professional staff when the dispensary is not in operation and the pharmacist is not present .

The Panel further directed that a copy of this decision be forwarded to the district manager for the company in order to make the company aware of this decision and that this case be reported in the next edition of The Apothecary newsletter, on a no-names basis, so that all pharmacists will be reminded of the requirements of this Standard of Practice.

Call for Expression of Interest

Eastern Health Medication Reconciliation Advisory Committee

Eastern Health is looking for a community pharmacist to serve on its Medication Reconciliation Advisory Committee. This committee provides organizational direction to standardize processes and ensure consistency with implementation of Medication Reconciliation (Med Rec) throughout all relevant programs / service areas of Eastern Health.

Pharmacists can contact Melanie Healey (**mhealey@nlpb.ca**) for more information about the committee, including membership, frequency of meetings or reimbursement or to express their interest in volunteering to serve on the committee.

NLPB Committees 2011 - 2014

Disciplinary Panel
Colleen Abbott-Hibbs
Mike Batt
Janice Chalker
Barry Downey
Stephen Gillingham
Walter Fleming
Jeff Fost
Denise O'Brien
Ron Pomeroy
Jeremy Reid
Heather Seeley
Wanda Spurrell
Bernd Staeben (Chair)
Jerry Young
Connie Burt, alternate
Bill Simmons, alternate
Ron Sheppard, lay representative
Robert Williams, lay representative
Yvonne Young, lay representative

Finance Committee
Sandra Carey
Linda Hensman (Chair)
Eugene Toope
Christina Tulk

Joint Committee on Structured Practice Experience (*Board Reps*)
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Ray Gulliver
Evelena Verge

Legislative Committee
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Susan Gillingham
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Susan Gladney-Martin
Jeremy Parsons
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Registration & Licensing Committee
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Gerry Peckham
Leslie Phillips
Jody Pomeroy
Jeremy Reid
Jason Ryan
Barb Scaplen
Barbara Thomas (Chair)
Christina Tulk

MUN School of Pharmacy Call for Preceptors

As most pharmacists are aware, as part of the pharmacy program, students are required to complete three Structured Practice Experience (SPE) rotations, each of four weeks duration, and one SPE of twelve weeks duration as follows:

- Four weeks in a community pharmacy after the first year of the Pharmacy program (Pharmacy 201W);
- Four weeks in a hospital setting after the second year of the program (Pharmacy 302W);
- Four weeks in a community pharmacy after the third year of the program (Pharmacy 403W); and
- Twelve weeks in clinical practice during the Winter semester of the final year of the Pharmacy program (Pharmacy 500X).

The placements will typically take place during the month of May. Students are assigned to sites and preceptors, rather than selecting their own. In 2012 there are a total of 118 students who require placement for a 4-week period:

- Placements in community pharmacies for 79 students from the classes of 2015 and 2013
- Placements in hospital pharmacies for 39 students from the class of 2014

In keeping with the philosophy that the SPEs are intended to be a practical educational experience and not just a work experience, students are not permitted to be paid. Having said that, the NLPB requires an additional 20 weeks of pharmacy practice experience for registration purposes, so students may seek employment with you after completion of the 4-week SPE. Being an SPE preceptor does not obligate you to provide such employment but you are encouraged to consider providing a student with additional practice experience.

Preceptor and site criteria are available on the School of Pharmacy website (www.mun.ca/pharmacy/practice/callforpreceptors.php).

The SPE Program would not be possible without the contribution and commitment of dedicated pharmacists. As you know, experiential education is critical to becoming a competent pharmacist. The School would like to thank all who have previously participated in the Practice Experience Program.

If you have any questions about being a preceptor in the SPE Program, please do not hesitate to contact Wanda Spurrell (Coordinator, Structured Practice Experience Program) at (709) 777-6498 or wspurrel@mun.ca.

The School of Pharmacy, Memorial University of Newfoundland
invites you to attend the

Annual White Coat Ceremony

to induct the first year Pharmacy Students into the Profession of Pharmacy

Main Auditorium, Health Sciences Centre
Thursday, January 19, 2012
5:00 pm

Please RSVP by January 12, 2012:
709-777-7211 or
sharont@mun.ca

Reception to follow,
sponsored by Lawtons Drugs
and Sobeys Pharmacy

Quick Bits

Pharmacists are reminded that with regard to prescriptions for narcotics and controlled drugs, the drugs should always be dispensed in the strengths as they are written. For example, Ritalin 20mg i bid x 60 (sixty) tablets ***MAY NOT*** *be dispensed as 120 10mg tablets unless the physician has been contacted and a new prescription to that effect has been provided.*

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Pharmacists are reminded that the drug piperazine is included in Schedule II of the Provincial Drug Schedules, meaning that it may be sold only from the no-public-access area of a pharmacy. In addition, mebendazole tablets are included in Schedule I by virtue of being Schedule F or being "Schedule F Recommended" by Health Canada. These requirements extend to veterinary formulations in addition to those for human consumption. Pharmacists-in-Charge are asked to check the "Veterinary Products" sections of their retail establishments and, if necessary, relocate any piperazine- or mebendazole-containing products to the appropriate section of the dispensary.

Recent Updates to the NLPB Website

About the Board

⇒ *Board Meeting Minutes - September 16, 2011*

Contact Us (Find A…)

⇒ *Pharmacists & Pharmacies Registers updated*

"The Apothecary" & Other Communications

⇒ *NAPRA Notes Fall 2011*

Registration and Licensing

⇒ *Blank Pharmacist and Pharmacy 2012 Renewal Forms*

⇒ *Application Form for Approval of Telepharmacy Services*

Legislation

⇒ *NLPB Binder Files updated to reflect new policy regarding telepharmacy services in hospital sites*

Standards, Policies and Guidelines

⇒ *New NLPB Policy - Licensing Criteria for Hospital Pharmacies providing Telepharmacy to Remote Hospital Sites*

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BOARD MEMBERS

Elected Members

Zone 1 ..... Debbie Kelly
Zone 2 ..... Ray Gulliver
Zone 3 ..... David Cramm
Zone 4 ..... Christina Tulk
At Large ..... Keith Bailey, Sheldon Baines, Shawn Vallis

Appointed Members

..... Don Mifflin
..... Eugene Toope

Observers

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PANL Executive Director ..... Mary Ann Butt
MUN School of Pharmacy ..... Linda Hensman

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