Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board

The Apothecary

Winter 2014

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.

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

Best Wishes from the Board Members and Staff of the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board.

Holiday Hours for NLPB Office

Please note that, in recognition of the Christmas and New Year holiday season, the Board office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th to Thursday, January 1st, inclusive.

If you need assistance during this time, please email inforx@nlpb.ca.

Pharmacy Preceptors Pay it Forward

Pay it forward is an expression used to describe the beneficiary of a good deed repaying it to others instead of to the original benefactor. I'm sure that many of us can look back over our careers and think of the colleagues that stand out as mentors and advisors. We cannot educate future practitioners without the involvement of you - our pharmacy preceptors in practice education. Becoming a preceptor idealizes the concept of paying it forward.

Preceptors are a vital link in the student's transition from theory to practice. Preceptors provide students and interns with many practice opportunities to apply didactic knowledge in a clinical setting that cannot be fully realized in the classroom. Many learners would be overwhelmed at the clinical site without preceptor support and guidance.

Are you new to preceptoring? Need some ideas to get started? Maybe you are not new to preceptoring, but are looking for ways to enhance your skills. Starting in 2015, Board-approved preceptor training will be required for pharmacists who wish to act as a preceptor to pharmacy students or interns or pharmacy technician candidates who are participating in NLPB Structured Practical Training.

These future practitioners need pharmacists to coach, mentor and guide their interactions and decision-making. We are indebted to our preceptors for their time and effort to facilitate the student's personal and professional growth. We applaud our preceptors for acknowledging the shared commitment and responsibility to educate the practitioners of tomorrow.

THANK YOU for partnering with us in this very important and critical role.

Margot Liddle

Practical Training Program Moving Online

As part of NLPB's commitment to improving its administrative processes, beginning in 2015, students and interns will be able to initiate, track and finalize all documentation related to the NLPB practical training program using the NLPB's online registrant portal.

The student or intern, after logging into their profile, will be able to apply to complete practical training, select a Board-approved preceptor, specify the dates they wish to complete the training period and submit the request.

The potential preceptor will then receive notification that a request is waiting for their approval and be able to log into their profile to accept the request. The Board will then receive notification and be able to review and approve the request...all online!

During and following the practical training period, all manuals and evaluation forms will be easily accessed by both the student and the preceptor on the registrant portal.

Its quick, easy and paperless! Look for more information on this process in the coming months.

Community Pharmacy Quality Assurance Program Well Underway

To date, 22 pharmacies have undergone the Community Pharmacy Assessment process. NLPB thanks pharmacists-in-charge for their co-operation on this initiative to promote patient safety and excellence in pharmacy practice.

A community pharmacy assessment is a direct communication between NLPB and the pharmacist-in-charge at a given community pharmacy. In support of the Quality Assurance component of the *Pharmacy Act, 2012*, pharmacies in NL can expect to be assessed at least once every three years. The process includes a pre-assessment that is a self-assessment completed by the pharmacist-in-charge, an on-site assessment completed by NLPB, and a follow-up plan to address any noted deficiencies. The assessment primarily focuses on compliance with NLPB Standards of Practice, but also takes into account professional image and workflow, with the idea of collecting information about best practices to share within the pharmacy profession in order to improve patient care and pharmacy service.

The assessments completed to date have highlighted a number of practice areas where some additional attention may be necessary. In particular, we would recommend that pharmacists review the following Standards of Practice:

- **Security and Accountability Procedures for Narcotics and Controlled Drugs in Community Pharmacies**, in particular the audit of purchases and sales against the perpetual inventory record
- **Customized Patient Drug Packaging**, particularly the counselling and record-keeping requirements for customized drug-packaging services
- **The Provision of Pharmaceutical Care to Personal Care Homes and Community Care Homes**
- **Delivery of Prescriptions by Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacies**

In 2015, NLPB plans to continue to expand its Quality Assurance Program by developing a hospital pharmacy assessment strategy, as well as continuing the community pharmacy assessment program including expanded scopes of practice. The Quality Assurance section of the NLPB website will soon be updated to include tools and templates to facilitate compliance with NLPB Standards of Practice.

As always, pharmacists are encouraged to provide feedback to NLPB about the pharmacy assessment process and the usability of our Standards of Practice.

Increased Demand for Pharmacies offering Opioid Dependence Treatment Services

As always, this specialized area of practice is in high demand. If you would like to consider expanding your services to include treatment of opioid dependence but are unsure where to begin, please contact the NLPB for guidance on implementing this important service into your practice.

Recent Board Activities

At the Board's most recent meeting on November 21, 2014:

- The Board approved **Terms of Reference for the Expanded Scopes Advisory Committee** to accompany the recently approved *Administration of Drug Therapy by Inhalation or Injection Regulations*. This multidisciplinary committee will include representation from the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador. The committee will serve to advise the Board on future expanded scopes and facilitate the communication and consultation process.
- The ***Standard of Practice—Advertising in Community Pharmacies*** was rescinded by the Board in light of recent changes to legislation and the Code of Ethics as well as upcoming changes to the NLPB Bylaws. There have also been inquiries from the Competition Bureau in recent years as they have been encouraging self-regulating professionals across the country to review and eliminate unnecessary restrictions on competition unless clearly required to achieve a legitimate public policy objective. The intent of this document is still covered by the Code of Ethics as well a "Frequently-Asked Questions" section that is to be added to the NLPB website.
- The Board also rescinded the ***Standard of Practice—Privacy and Confidentiality of Personal Health Information***. It was felt that with the implementation of the Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) in this province, the Board no longer requires such a Standard, and, in fact, it could be a risk if they were ever in conflict. In addition, the recent revision to the Code of Ethics includes a section specific to privacy (section 4), which covers much of the underlying principle of this Standard.
- With the implementation of the new *Pharmacy Regulations, 2014*, authority to approve the Provincial Drug Schedules moves from the Minister of Health and Community Services to the Board. To handle changes in an efficient manner, Review of Pending Drug Schedule Changes will be a standing agenda item at Board meetings going forward. At this meeting, the Board approved several revisions. The latest version of the Drug Schedules can be found on the **Provincial Drug Schedules** page of the NLPB website, along with a summary of the most recent changes.
- Responding to a request from the MUN School of Pharmacy, the Board appointed Christina Tulk to serve on the **Pharm.D. Stakeholder Advisory Committee** on behalf of the Board.

Postscript Recap

Since the last issue of The Apothecary, the Board has posted two issues of The Postscript, as summarized below. Please visit the **NLPB Newsletters page** of the NLPB website to view all past issues.

Issue #4—November 5, 2014

- Call for Hospital Pharmacy Practice Advisory Working Group Members
- Renewal FAQ's
- Preceptor Training
- The Prescribing Course-Safe Opioid Prescribing for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain

Issue #5—December 3, 2014

- Over 100 Pharmacists Authorized to Provide Inhalations and Injections!
- "Pharmacy Technician" A Restricted Title
- Self-Declaration Assessments
- NLCHI Pharmacy Network Update

Missing Our Newsletters? Personal Information Changed?

You can update your address, phone number or email address at any time.

Under **My Profile**, click **Edit My Profile** and make the changes.

Scroll to the bottom and click **Save**. Quick and easy, and no charge!

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