

Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists

NSCP Council Members 2012

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Councillor:

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Cathy Comeau



Craig Connolly
NSCP President

As the final days of 2012 fall off the calendar and the end of my two year term as NSCP president comes to a close, I want to thank everyone who shared their knowledge and experience and supported and inspired me along the way.

It's ironic how chance found me to be NSCP Council Chair at this transitional time in our profession. I took a different path to becoming a pharmacist than most by returning to school at the age of thirty when many of you at that age would be seven years into a pharmacy career. It was a big leap and while I may seem to be full of confidence now, I certainly wasn't at the start. Change is not always easy; it requires setting goals, determination and

overcoming the obstacles in your path. And when you look back to see how far you've come, you can't imagine going back.

Over the past two years, I have enjoyed meeting pharmacists from all over the province and hearing about opportunities and challenges in their respective practices. I am a firm believer in legislative change that benefits the people of Nova Scotia by giving authority to pharmacists to utilize their knowledge and skills in a way that satisfies our duty to provide safe and effective patient care. It is then up to us, as practicing pharmacists, to incorporate these authorities into our practice.

At the start of November, my pharmacy was renovated to have a private counselling room for the first time. I spend 40 hours a week dispensing, and since I have started using the private room for counselling, my patients now see me more like a clinician than a retail employee. They appreciate the privacy, they see the complexity

of their files on the screen, and they see the resources we use to inform our decisions. I'm not moving mountains but I am affecting change one interaction at a time.

I've learned that the role of a self-regulatory authority is not always easy but it is extremely fulfilling. We have an informed Council who exercise good governance and good judgment, and have been faithful in ensuring that all decisions are made in the best interest of the public. The College staff is well respected within and outside the province in both pharmacy and other health care professions. I wish to thank them for their tremendous support and guidance over the past two years.

With that, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. As we head into the new year, we as Nova Scotia pharmacists should be proud of what we have accomplished and can look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead in 2013.

This Bulletin is forwarded to every licensed pharmacist and certified dispenser in Nova Scotia. Decisions of the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists regarding matters such as regulations, drug schedules, pharmacy practice, etc., are published in this Bulletin. The Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists therefore assumes that all pharmacists/certified dispensers are aware of these matters.

Legislation Updates

NSCP Pharmacy Regulations and Standards

Over the course of the past several years, the NSCP, working with the government and other key stakeholders, has completely overhauled and improved the pharmacy legislative/regulatory framework in the province. The following is a brief update of recent and pending changes:

A new *Pharmacy Act*, developed by the NSCP, was passed by the provincial government in 2011 and is waiting proclamation.

The *Pharmacist Drug Prescribing Regulations* were approved in 2011, giving pharmacists extensive prescribing authority.

The *Pharmacist Extended Practice Regulations*, providing pharmacists with the authority to administer drugs, including vaccines by injection and to order, receive, conduct and interpret tests when appropriate, are before Cabinet and are awaiting approval. The government continues to advise us that these *Regulations* are a priority for the province.

Proposed *Pharmacy Regulations* were recently submitted to the government for approval that, when passed, will modernize the current general regulations and will include the authority for the NSCP to regulate Registered Pharmacy Technicians, support a new fitness to practice process, and provide the regulatory authority needed for the provincial government's Drug Information System (DIS). It is expected that these regulations will be considered and approved by government by the late spring of 2013.

Personal Health Information Legislation for Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia's Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) and its associated regulations **will come into effect on June 1, 2013**. The Act and regulations set out the requirements for the collection, use, disclosure, retention, disposal and destruction of personal health information in a manner that recognizes both the right of individuals to protect their personal health information AND the need of custodians to collect, use and disclose personal health information to provide, support and manage health care.

Because pharmacies (and staff) and pharmacists will need to comply with PHIA, it is critical that they understand the new Act and regulations. The provincial government has created a Personal Health Information Act "Toolkit for Custodians" which includes not only the Act and regulations but also information on how to comply with the Act, the list of duties of custodians, useful templates, and a compliance checklist.

This information is posted on the government of Nova Scotia's website at: <http://novascotia.ca/dhw/phia/custodians.asp> and links to this information can be also found on the NSCP website at: www.nspharmacists.ca.

NSCP Staff Changes

Cindy Ingersoll has resigned as Manager of Professional Accountability and the responsibilities of this position have been reassigned to Janelle Gray and Jennifer Austin. Janelle will be working on a part time basis (1-2 days per week) as Manager of Professional Accountability and Jennifer will undertake the remainder of the duties as Coordinator of Professional Accountability. Subsequently, there was a reassignment of inspectors to pharmacies and Karen Nickerson has taken on many of the pharmacies in the HRM and the central corridor of NS.

Changes to Council Membership

Sincere Appreciation to Departing Council Members



Thank You Trevor Simmons

Sincere appreciation is extended to Trevor Simmons for his outstanding service as a valued member of Council. During Trevor's six years on Council, he has served as Zone 5 representative; NSCP President; Chair of the Executive Committee, Governance Committee and Investigations Committee; and member of the Nomination Committee. Additionally, he has been the NSCP representative on the PEBC Board, where he held various positions. Although Trevor vacates his position on Council, he has agreed to continue to serve the College and the public at the committee level.



Thank You Alicia Spence

Sincere appreciation is extended to Alicia Spence for her outstanding service as a valued member of Council. During Alicia's two years on Council, she served as Zone 4 representative and member of the Standards of Practice Committee and Governance Committee. We wish Alicia well in all of her future endeavors.

Welcome to our New Council Members



Jacqueline Gray: Zone 5 (Hospital) Representative

The NSCP Council wishes to welcome Jacqueline Gray as the incoming Zone 5 member of Council for 2013-2014. Jacqueline graduated from Dalhousie College of Pharmacy in 2008. For the first few years of her career she practiced as a community pharmacist, but later Jacqueline found her interests more aligned with hospital practice. She is currently employed at Colchester East Hants Health Centre in Truro and is the pharmacist on the palliative care team and the stroke team. One of her biggest passions is continually trying to expand the role of pharmacists in all settings and therefore continues to practice in a community pharmacy on a casual basis. To facilitate expansion of her role as a clinical hospital pharmacist, Jacqueline will be pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree through distance education.



Leslie (Les) Reid: Zone 4 (Valley and Western Shore) Representative

The NSCP Council wishes to welcome Leslie Reid as the incoming Zone 4 member of Council for 2013-2014. Les graduated from Dalhousie College of Pharmacy in 1979 and has practiced in community pharmacy since that time. He is currently employed as a staff pharmacist with Lawtons, and splits his time between the Windsor and New Minas stores. Les has previously been involved with the PANS Board, serving as President in 2002-2003. He has been a longstanding PEBC Assessor for the pharmacist OSCE and assists the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy with its admission interviews. Les is looking forward to his time on the NSCP Council, and will also be serving as Chair of the Investigations Committee.

NSCP 2012 Awards Recipients

Each year, during the PANS Annual Conference / Dal CPE Refresher, the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists honors pharmacists and other individuals who have given outstanding service to the public, to their community, and to the profession.

We are pleased to introduce this year's Bowl of Hygeia Award winner, Kathryn Spurrell, and the Professional Service Award winners, Anastasia Hantias and Mike Callaghan. It is also with great pride that we formally acknowledge our outgoing president, Craig Connolly.

Pfizer Consumer Healthcare Bowl of Hygeia Award

The Pfizer Consumer Healthcare Bowl of Hygeia is awarded annually to a pharmacist who has provided outstanding service to their community above and beyond their professional activities.

Kathryn Spurrell

Kathryn graduated from the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy in 1983 and has practiced community pharmacy since that time. She is currently the co-owner of the Valley Drug Mart pharmacies.

Kathryn has demonstrated her commitment to her community in many ways including involvement in the school, church and public events. She has devoted many years to the work of the Kingston Elementary and Pine Ridge Home and School Associations and has served as secretary on the PTSA at West Kings District High School. She is a longstanding Sunday School teacher and Superintendent at the Kingston United Church and also a member of the UC Women's Auxiliary and dedicated volunteer for the church's many bake sales, luncheons and suppers.

Kathryn supports her community by actively participating in a multitude of community events including the Tremont Fair, Kingston Barbeques, and Heart of the Valley Days by

volunteering her services on many different levels from baking to providing floats for local parades.

As owner of the Valley Drug Mart pharmacies, Kathryn provides transportation via the Valley Drug Mart Shuttle for patients from the Valley needing to attend medical appointments in Halifax. This service is offered five days a week and is free of charge.

In recognition of her faithful commitment to serving her community and her countless hours of volunteerism, it was no surprise when Kathryn was selected Volunteer of the Year for Kingston, Nova Scotia.

Despite her many hours spent volunteering and serving others, and despite her devotion to her family, Kathryn's colleagues and neighbors have reported that she is known as a person who always has time for someone in need. In a time when many spend their time and energy working for their own self-interest, Kathryn serves as an inspiration on the importance of serving others.

Professional Service Awards

The Professional Service Award is presented to pharmacists in recognition of their outstanding commitment to patient

Anastasia Hanias

Anastasia graduated from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in 1995. She is the pharmacy owner and manager of the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy on Quinpool Rd in Halifax, NS. When Anastasia opened her pharmacy in 2009, she had a vision for a holistic approach to patient care where she could practice pharmacy in her own way – providing every patient with the privacy and time they needed to feel comfortable sharing their personal health issues and concerns.

After three years of operation, Anastasia has realized her vision: she spends hours each week consulting with patients and collaborating with other members of their health care team in order to ensure that each and every patient receives the best possible care. She gives presentations at nursing homes on topics such as the safe use of medications and bone density. She provides seminars to the community on a variety of women's health related topics including menopause, bio-identical hormone replacement therapy and labour and childbirth. She regularly hosts clinics in her pharmacy for cholesterol, glucose/A1c, bone density, blood pressure, and hearing screening. She also provides opportunities for weekly blood collection in her pharmacy.

Anastasia's patients and colleagues agree that she has made a positive impact on healthcare in the local community, and the NSCP is proud to recognize her with this award.

Michael Callaghan

Mike graduated from Dalhousie University College of Pharmacy in 1995. Mike has been a pharmacist at the Halifax Infirmity site of the QEII Health Science Center since 2001, during which time he has practiced direct patient care with cardiology patients from across the Maritime Provinces. He is a dedicated clinical pharmacist who advocates daily on behalf of his patients who are usually undergoing a sudden change in lifestyle, including often being

faced with the need to take five or more new chronic medications. Mike educates these patients on their new medications and always considers costs and coverage factors when collaborating on their medication therapy.

He is a strong voice for improving clinical coverage of patient care units at the Halifax Infirmity and has contributed countless hours within the hospital and also at the provincial and national level to promote consistency of care and knowledge transfer to patients with cardiovascular disease.

Within the hospital he is involved in Formulary Committee reviews and submissions, and with treatment protocol development. He regularly presents to cardiologists, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and pharmacy students and lectures for the Nurse Practitioner Master's Program at Dalhousie University. He contributes to the ongoing development of the profession by consistently agreeing to serve as a preceptor for pharmacy students and residents; and he is involved in the PEBC exam as a content reviewer and developer, and exam assessor.

Mike was involved in establishing the Heart Show presentation developed for the Cardiac Rehab program. He is a member of the Cardiovascular Health NS ACS working group for which he helped develop the Acute Coronary Syndrome Guidelines for the province. He has engaged in research locally and nationally that supports dedication to patient care: both PRIMA-ACS and COPE are projects that anticipate measuring hospital pharmacist education activities in cardiovascular patient outcomes.

He is a past-president of the NS Branch of the CSHP and regional delegate to the Canadian Cardiovascular Pharmacists' Network. In this role he has taken on the responsibility as chair of the annual planning committee for the *Annual Atlantic Canada Fall Symposium: Contemporary Therapeutic Issues in Cardiovascular Disease*.

Cardiovascular patients in Nova Scotia are fortunate to have a pharmacist as dedicated and as capable as Mike in their corner, and the NSCP is proud to recognize his commitment with this award.

NSCP 2012 Awards Recipients continued

Past President's Award

The Past President Award is presented to the outgoing President of the Council of the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists.

Craig Connolly

Craig graduated from Dalhousie College of Pharmacy in 2006 and since that time has practiced community pharmacy. He is currently the Pharmacy Manager of Sobeys Pharmacy in Clayton Park.

Craig was elected to the Council of the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists in 2008 and since then has served as Chair of the Standards of Practice Committee, Chair of the Council Governance Committee, member of the Nominating Committee and member and Chair of the Executive Committee. He was elected NSCP President in 2011 and is currently serving his second term in this position.

In his work on the Standards of Practice Committee, Craig credibly and passionately co-presented the newly established standards of practice for pharmacists' prescribing across the province. His calm and forthright approach to addressing the questions of pharmacists regarding how they might incorporate the expanded pharmacy services into their practice was not only reassuring but also inspiring. His practical approach to applying the new regulations and standards to everyday practice was not only valuable during the roll-out of the prescribing standards, but also during his presentations across the province on the new standards for methadone maintenance treatment services.

As President of Council, Craig provides strong and wise leadership. He is genuine and sincere. As Chair of Council, he is committed to ensuring that the voices of all members of Council are heard and respected, and that the input of stakeholders is appropriately considered when making decisions.

Alongside his boundless commitment to the work of the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists, Craig has also contributed to the development of future pharmacists through his work with the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy. He is a member of the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy's Curriculum Committee, Golf Classic Committee, and is President of the Dalhousie University College of Pharmacy Alumni Division (DUCPAD). He is a Skills Lab demonstrator, serves as a preceptor for the practice experience programs, and is an assessor for the Dalhousie practice OSCEs. He also teaches Pharmacy Law and Health Care Ethics to the first year class where his students describe him as a phenomenal man who shows a passion for his profession.

In 2011, Craig was recognized locally and nationally for his commitment to professional practice, being selected as the recipient for both the Dalhousie Alumnus of the Year Award and the CPhA New Practitioner Award.

It is with pride, gratitude and a bit of sadness that we see Craig end his term as President but we look forward to him assuming an ongoing active role on Council as Past President.

PANS / ISIS Craig Ennett Award

In 2011, the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia (PANS), in collaboration with Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services (ISIS), established the Craig Ennett Award. This award represents a celebration of Craig's life and recognizes Craig's exceptional contributions to pharmacy, and in particular, his outstanding work in welcoming International Pharmacy Graduates (IPGs) to the pharmacy profession. The award is presented to an individual who exemplifies Craig's efforts on behalf of IPGs in Nova Scotia, and we are pleased to announce that Susan Wedlake was this year's award recipient.

Situations When Pharmacists Prescribing Could Enhance Care

From time to time, situations arise where the best care to a patient could be achieved by a pharmacist prescribing according to the Pharmacist Prescribing Standards of Practice. Since prescribing has not routinely been a part of a pharmacist's practice, the opportunity may pass by unrecognized. In the interest of providing optimal patient care and making best use of healthcare resources, pharmacists should consider "is this something I might be able to take the responsibility to prescribe myself?"

The following are examples of typical situations when pharmacist prescribing may be appropriate:

Expanded Service	Hypothetical Situation
Prescription Adaptation	The physician prescribed the incorrect dose of antibiotic for a child (e.g. incorrect indication, dose according to weight incorrect).
Therapeutic Substitution	A prescription for rabeprazole cannot be filled because it is short from the manufacturer.
Prescription Renewal	A mother presents at the counter for a refill of her oral contraceptives which she has been taking for many years. There are no refills remaining on her prescription. It is Sunday morning and she is supposed to start taking her pills again today.
Minor and Common Ailments Prescribing	A patient informs you that he feels a cold sore coming on and has used Valtrex® in the past with great results. He is not able to get in to see his doctor for another week.
Prescribing in an Emergency	A man travelling on a cruise ship who is out on a short land excursion asks you if you would be able to provide him with some Pradox® as he has run out and has already missed the last couple of doses. There are no readily available medical services (out-patient, walk-in, ER) to access. On further questioning, you determine he has atrial fibrillation and has previously experienced TIAs and you are comfortable that this therapy was intended to be continued.
Prescribing for Preventable Diseases	A patient who plans to travel to the Dominican Republic in two months asks if you can sell him Twinrix® without a prescription.
Prescribing of Schedule II and III Drugs	A patient has been told by her doctor to pick up Vitamin B12 injection and bring it back to the office for her next appointment but the doctor did not give her a prescription. The patient has a comprehensive drug plan which would pay for B12 injection.

Pharmacists and Patients Embrace Counselling in a Private Room

The NSCP Practice Regulations require that “A pharmacy shall contain an area for private patient consultation where counselling and the provision of drug information may take place without being overheard by others.” The American Society of Health System Pharmacists’ *Medication Therapy and Patient Care Guidelines* states: “Education and counselling are most effective when conducted in a room or space that ensures privacy and opportunity to engage in confidential communication...so that patients and pharmacists can have each other’s undivided attention.”

Understandably, some pharmacists may feel awkward and unsure about how to approach the initial conversations to take patients into their private counseling rooms. Although it has been demonstrated that the quality of communication and the quality of the information received from the patient improves in a private environment, finding ways to ‘jump-start’ those conversations for the first time might prove challenging. Pharmacists who are using their private counselling rooms routinely say that patients are much more forthcoming with information and that once they have taken a few patients into the room, it eventually becomes routine and even expected by patients. An added benefit to the pharmacist is a sense of professional satisfaction in having provided the

best care possible. In a recent article aptly titled “A View with a Room”, authored by Glenn Rodriguez and published in the PANS publication *The Pharmacist*, Glenn asks his patients: “Do you mind if we go into our private counselling room? I want to make sure we are not interrupted.” These two simple statements immediately convey a number of things to this patient - that the information about to be communicated is important and private, and that the patient deserves the pharmacist’s undivided attention.

Some pharmacists have challenged the “do-ability” of taking a patient into the private counselling room by saying that patients are often in a rush and will not want to take that extra time to be counselled in a private room. Others have successfully disproved that assumption. It comes down to this: If patients value the services they receive and believe that the pharmacist is vested in their health, they will take the time. When was the last time any-one saw a patient refusing to go into the doctors’ consultation room or hastily retreating from it because they were in too much of a hurry to listen to what the doctor had to say?

Pharmacists have an obligation to counsel their patients on their medication and to provide ongoing monitoring and follow up. It is the pharmacist’s responsibility to ensure that patients have all the information they need to effectively and safely manage their medication therapy. The fact that the patient is in a hurry does not diminish this obligation. Counselling must occur, and providing it in an environment that affords the utmost privacy and comfort to the patient is critical.

At a recent CE event, Glenn suggested that one of the most important things a pharmacist can do to begin to embrace their expanded scope of practice is to use the private counselling room. “Make people see you as a clinician by *being one*”, he stated. In other words, the message conveyed by using the private counselling room with increasing frequency may be almost as important as the value it adds to the service provided, and it will help to transition patients to view their pharmacist as a skilled professional advisor with important information and resources to provide.

Although counselling in a private room is not currently **required** when a pharmacist “dispenses” a drug (versus when a pharmacist “prescribes” a drug), the benefits to the patient are indisputable.

Calls to the NSCP from Pharmacists

Providing information to law enforcement

Can we provide any information to an RCMP officer who is asking to know what time a particular methadone patient comes each day to get her medication?

Pharmacists are encouraged to cooperate with law enforcement agencies; however, confidential health information cannot be released without a search warrant or court order and releasing any personal information without such a document may be considered a breach of privacy. If ordered to do so by the courts, pharmacists may testify in court and produce personal health records. Only information referred to in the search warrant or court order should be disclosed.

When a pharmacist suspects an illegal activity, such as a forgery, there is an ethical obligation to report the suspected crime to law enforcement. Only information relating to the illegal activity may be released.

Standards for Conducting Med Reviews

The NSCP has received inquiries regarding whether there are special standards associated with the provision of medication reviews for patients. When a pharmacist conducts a medication review for a patient, as with providing all patient care related activities, the general Standards of Practice as approved by the NSCP Council are to be followed (<http://www.nspharmacists.ca/standards/documents/StandardsofPracticeforCanadianPharmacists.pdf>).

PMP: eAccess 24/7

In an effort to provide pharmacists and prescribers with enhanced access to patient profiles, the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) introduced “eAccess” in April of this year. eAccess allows pharmacists to log on to a secure website and obtain a patient profile (i.e. a profile of the monitored drugs received by the patient within the province) on a 24/7 basis. This will provide pharmacists with access to the information they may need to help them

determine the best treatment for their patient while promoting the appropriate use and the reduction of the abuse and misuse of monitored drugs.

In order to receive a user name and password, pharmacists must complete an eAccess registration form and sign an eAccess confidentiality agreement.

A secure email account, to which only the pharmacist named on the registration form has access, is mandatory.

The registration form and confidentiality agreement are available on the PMP website (<http://www.nspmp.ca/library/00000222-library.pdf>) and can be either faxed or mailed back to the PMP office (see forms for fax # and address). Please contact the PMP at 496.7123 or toll free at 1.877.476.7767 for more information.



Promoting the appropriate use,
and reducing the abuse and misuse of monitored drugs in Nova Scotia.

Faxing Prescriptions: College of Physicians and Surgeons endorses NSCP Policy

The following information regarding the NSCP's ongoing concerns about incorrect faxing of prescriptions was recently received from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. Pharmacists may wish to share this information with physicians as necessary.

- *The College of Physicians and Surgeons has informally endorsed the NSCP fax form and its accompanying policy, as indicated in its Winter 2012 member newsletter. The College encourages its members to use this form or something similar whenever they fax prescriptions.*
- *The College of Physicians and Surgeons recognizes that pharmacists and other allied health professions have certain regulatory obligations to meet. In situations where physicians play a role in enabling their colleagues to meet these obligations, the College expects that they will provide the necessary assistance.*
- *From a regulatory or liability standpoint, using this form or something similar is in the physicians' best interest.*

This information may assist pharmacists in communicating with physicians as necessary. Pharmacists are reminded that along with the *Transmission of Prescriptions by Facsimile policy*, the *Sample Fax Prescription Form* is available as a separate PDF on the website, if they wish to share it with prescribers:

<http://www.nspharmacists.ca/policies/documents/SamplePhysicianFAXPrescriptionForm.pdf>

Reminder of the Pharmacist's Responsibility

Pharmacists are reminded of their legal responsibility to ensure the appropriateness of prescribed therapy before providing a drug to a patient. The *Pharmacy Act* states that pharmacists are responsible for “*taking all reasonable steps to ensure pharmaceutical and therapeutic appropriateness of a drug therapy*”. This means that, prior to releasing a drug to a patient, the pharmacist needs to assess the prescribed therapy by obtaining sufficient information about the patient to determine if the proposed drug therapy is appropriate.

Pharmacy managers and owners are responsible for ensuring that dispensary workflow designs and processes respect the role of the pharmacist in the dispensing process and that steps are taken to provide pharmacists with the time they need to assess the information gathered from their patients and to ensure the appropriateness of drug therapy.

Health Canada Advisories, Warnings, and Recalls

Pharmacists, especially Pharmacy Managers, are reminded that critical health/drug advisories, warnings, and drug recalls are posted on the NSCP website homepage under “Safety Advisories”, as well as the Health Canada website. It is the responsibility of every licensed pharmacist and certified dispenser to keep abreast of these safety advisories and to advise their patients where appropriate.

November

[Richmond, B.C. Store \(Cube Inc.\) Selling Potentially Dangerous Weight Loss Products](#)

[Thermography Machines not Authorized to Screen for Breast Cancer](#)

[Additional Banana Boat Sun Care Products Recalled Due to Fire Risk](#)

[PROLIA \(denosumab\) - Association with the Risk of Atypical Femoral Fractures - Amgen Canada Inc.](#)

[Zocor \(simvastatin\) - New Safety Recommendations on Dosage Associated with the Increased Risk of Muscle Problems - Merck Canada Inc.](#)

[AGRIFLU and FLUAD - Health Canada Lifts the Suspension of Distribution of these Seasonal Flu Vaccines - Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.](#)

[Expanded Recall of X3 Clean Alcohol-Free Foaming Hand Sanitizer](#)

[Riata and Riata ST Silicone Endocardial Defibrillation Leads – Safety Recommendations Regarding Lead Insulation Abrasion - St. Jude Medical Canada Inc.](#)

[Infanrix Hexa - Voluntary Recall of Vaccine Due to Potential Microbiological Contamination - GlaxoSmithKline Inc.](#)

October

[Carboplatin injection \(600mg/60mL\) - Visible Particles in One Lot - Notice to Hospitals - Voluntary Suspension of Flu Vaccines \(Agriflu and Fluad\) Lifted](#)

[Important Information for Canadians: U.S. Meningitis Outbreak](#)

[Novartis Suspends Distribution of Seasonal Flu Vaccines Agriflu and Fluad in Canada as a Precaution](#)

[“Pollen Allerg6y” Recalled Due to High Arsenic Levels](#)

[New Safety Information: Interaction of Proton Pump Inhibitors \(PPIs\) with Methotrexate](#)

[Expanded Recall of Contaminated Foaming Hand Soap](#)

[Epicardial Pacemaker Leads - Rare risk of Cardiac Strangulation in Pediatric Patients with Implants](#)

[Contaminated Foaming Hand Soap Recalled Due to Dangerous Bacteria](#)

[ZOFTRAN \(ondansetron\) - Association with Changes in Electrical Activity in the Heart - GlaxoSmithKline Inc.](#)

[TYPHIM Vi \(Salmonella typhi Vi Capsular Polysaccharide Vaccine\) - Voluntary Recall of Vi Polysaccharide Typhoid Vaccine Batches with Potentially Lower than Expected Antigen Content - Sanofi Pasteur Limited](#)

September

[Retailers in B.C. and Toronto Sold “Zhuifeng Tougu Wan”: Product Contains Dangerous Amounts of Mercury](#)

[Propofol Injectable Emulsion 1% \(10mg/mL\), 1g/100 mL - Product Recall for One Lot Due to the Presence of Particulate Matter - Hospira Healthcare Corporation](#)

[Review Determines ImmuCyst Lot Can be Released for Use](#)

[CuraHerbDistributor.com Selling Unlicensed Home-Use HIV and STDs Test Kits](#)

[BiCNU \(carmustine for injection, USP\) 100 mg/vial - Risk of Myelosuppression, Pulmonary Toxicity, Renal and Hepatic Toxicity as a Result of Overfilled Vials - Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, Medical Services](#)

August

[GILENYA \(fingolimod\) - Stronger Safety Recommendations Regarding First-Dose Heart Monitoring and Use in Patients with Heart Conditions - Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.](#)

[Hospital Beds - Risk of patient entrapment \(update\)](#)

[MedEffect e-Notice - 5 Foreign Product Alerts](#)

Can pharmacists and physicians prescribe for themselves?

Professional objectivity may be in jeopardy when a patient is a close family member of the prescriber. Personal feelings and emotion may unduly influence the prescriber's professional judgment, thereby potentially influencing the care that is delivered.

Prescribers, regardless of the discipline, are bound by their ethical codes and standards and are permitted to prescribe for themselves and their families only in exceptional circumstances.

The **NSCP Code of Ethics** states that:

“Registrants limit treatment of themselves or immediate family members only to minor conditions, emergency circumstances or when another appropriate health professional is not readily available.”

The **NSCP Pharmacist Prescribing Standards of Practice** provides the following direction:

“A pharmacist shall not prescribe for themselves, a family member or anyone with whom the pharmacist has a close personal relationship, except in extraordinary circumstances when:

- *no other prescriber is available and*
- *the drug treatment is required to save a life or avoid serious deterioration to the patient's health.”*

The **College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia Policy on Treating Self and Family Members** points physicians to their Code of Ethics which contains a statement similar to that of the NSCP Code of Ethics. It articulates the rationale to support their policy as follows:

- *The need for appropriate boundaries between practitioners and their patients.*
- *The need to avoid conflict of interest and abuse of privilege in the practice of medicine.*
- *The need to avoid unnecessary costs to the public healthcare system.*
- *The need to ensure patient safety.*

The pharmacist - patient relationship is the foundation of quality patient care. A personal or emotional relationship may compromise a prescriber's professional judgment and the independence and integrity of their prescribing process.

Sterile Compounding

Recently, a deadly meningitis outbreak in the United States was linked to the contamination of products compounded by a pharmacy in New England. The FDA is currently investigating the sterile compounding policies and procedures of the pharmacy involved and the state regulatory body has summarily suspended the pharmacy's license.

This incident demonstrates why it is critical for pharmacies involved with any type of sterile compounding to ensure that they are adhering to recognized sterile compounding policies and procedures such as those found in the United States Pharmacopeia, Chapter <797> (USP <797>).

The National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities is currently working with the federal government on updating Health Canada's Policy 051 on compounding and manufacturing. Meanwhile, pharmacies providing sterile compounding services are urged to review their policies and procedures to ensure that they are consistent with USP <797> and comply with the NSCP policy on Sterile Compounding.

Mentoring IPGs rewarding

International Pharmacy Graduates (IPGs) are required to meet the same requirements for licensure and the same standards of practice as Canadian-educated pharmacists. The NSCP recognizes that IPGs often face significant challenges navigating the path to licensure. To help address these challenges, pharmacists are encouraged to consider participating in the education and training of IPGs by offering to be a preceptor for the structured practice experience program (the same program used by Dal students) or a facilitator/assessor for the IPG Communication Skills Lab Training. IPGs bring with them unique and interesting experiences, knowledge and diversity and many Nova Scotia pharmacists have found the relationships they have forged with IPGs to be extremely rewarding.

If you would like to volunteer in one of these capacities, please contact Immigration Settlement & Integration Services (ISIS) - www.isisns.ca. By doing so, you will not only be helping to open doors for an international applicant, but you will also be contributing to the ongoing development of the profession of pharmacy.

Medavie Pilot Projects

The NSCP office has received several inquiries from pharmacists regarding their participation in the Medavie Blue Cross pilot project involving therapeutic substitution.

Pharmacists are reminded that, in Nova Scotia, pharmacists are authorized to prescribe, including making therapeutic substitutions where appropriate, but only in accordance with the *Standards of Practice: Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists*.

Amendment to the NSCP Prescription Regulation Summary

The updated *Summary of Federal and Provincial Laws and Regulations Governing Prescription Drugs in Nova Scotia* (“The Blue Chart”) was circulated in September. Please make the following amendment to your copy of the chart:

Under **Controlled Drug Preparations Part I** – remove “e.g. Bellergal® Spacetabs” and add it to **Controlled Drugs Preparations Part II** as follows “e.g: Fiorinal®, Bellergal® Spacetabs”.

The updated version of the chart is available on the NSCP website under “Practice Requirements” <http://www.nspharmacists.ca/resources/documents/PrescriptionRegulationsSummary.pdf>.

Score A+ for Cooperation with Online License Renewal

The NSCP thanks all pharmacists, pharmacy managers and pharmacy owners for their cooperation during the transition to an online renewal process for pharmacist and pharmacy licenses for 2013.

The College has worked diligently with OlaTech Corp, providers of the new inITouch registration database, to create an online renewal process that is both user friendly while having enough rigour to ensure licensing requirements are met. Feedback from pharmacists has been very positive, particularly regarding the programs ease of use and intuitive layout.

The outcomes realized by implementing this new database are enhancements in the College's administrative (e.g. online renewal), communication (e.g. registrant email system), and inspection and investigation documentation processes.

The College reminds all registrants to take special care to protect their password login for their license profile, and to ensure that they promptly advise the NSCP of any change in their email address.

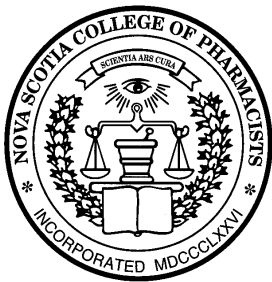
The NSCP has appreciated your cooperation, patience and support and welcomes your feedback on the process as it continues to work with OlaTech to enhance the functioning of the software.

HOLIDAY HOURS

December / January				
Mon Dec 24	Tues Dec 25	Wed Dec 26	Thurs Dec 27	Fri Dec 28
Closed at Noon	CLOSED	CLOSED	Regular Hours	Regular Hours
Mon Dec 31	Tues Jan 1	Wed Jan 2	Thurs Jan 3	Fri Jan 4
Closed at Noon	CLOSED	Regular Hours	Regular Hours	Regular Hours

As we reflect on the true spirit of the season, it is our hope that the past year has been good to you and that the year to come provides you, your family and friends with peace, happiness and good health!

*~ the Council and Staff of the
Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists*



**Nova Scotia
College of Pharmacists**

Governing the practice of pharmacy in Nova Scotia
in the interest of the health and well-being of the public.