

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: October 20, 2020
Re: Amendments to Pharmacy Practice Regulations and Standards of Practice

Amendments to the *Pharmacy Practice Regulations* have been approved that enable pharmacists to delegate to other pharmacy registrants the technical activities involved with drug administration by injection and conducting tests. The [*Standards of Practice: Drug Administration*](#) and [*Standards of Practice: Testing*](#) have been amended to align with these changes.

Drug Administration by Injection

Pharmacy technicians, interns and students must hold a valid NSCP *Drug Administration by Injection Technical Permit* in order to be delegated the authority to undertake the technical activities involved with drug administration by injection. The amended [*Standards of Practice: Drug Administration*](#) provide greater clarity on the roles and responsibilities of pharmacists and other registrants when delegation is used in administering drugs by injection:

- The pharmacist continues to be responsible for ensuring that drug administration takes place in accordance with the *Pharmacist Extended Practice Regulations* and the Standards. The pharmacist may now delegate the **technical** activities involved with administering drug therapy by injection to a pharmacy technician, intern or student as long as the pharmacist:
 - provides the necessary level of supervision for a pharmacy student;
 - provides the necessary direction for a pharmacy intern or pharmacy technician;
 - is satisfied that the person to whom they are delegating is competent to undertake the task; and
 - is present in the pharmacy or other place where the drug administration is taking place.
- By accepting the delegation, the pharmacy technician, intern or student accepts responsibility for the technical activities they undertake, including that they do so in accordance with the standards of practice. They must be satisfied that they are competent to administer the drug and have the level of supervision/direction necessary.

Testing

The [*Standards of Practice: Testing*](#) provide greater clarity on the roles and responsibility of pharmacists and other registrants when delegation is used in conducting tests:

- The pharmacist must be satisfied that the registrant to whom the task is being delegated has the necessary knowledge and training to ensure the test is conducted safely and appropriately.
- When delegating, the pharmacist remains responsible for ensuring that the test is in the best interest of the patient and is in compliance with the *Pharmacists' Extended Practice Regulations*.

- When accepting the delegation, the pharmacy technician, intern or student accepts responsibility for the technical activities they undertake. They must be satisfied that a pharmacist has determined that the test is in the best interest of the patient and that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct the test safely and appropriately.

These revisions allow pharmacies to more fully utilize other pharmacy team members, thereby better positioning pharmacies to meet the health needs of the public.

Revisions to these Standards will be a focus of the upcoming [2020 Zone meetings](#). There are currently spaces available for the Tuesday, October 27th webinar.