



## Pharmacy Information Program (PIP)

*Following is an article submitted by Saskatchewan Health for circulation in our Newsletter.*

Prescription drugs have the power to make us well but also the potential, when used improperly, to make us ill.

That's why Saskatchewan Health is launching a new program to make using prescription drugs safer. The initiative, called the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP), lets doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other authorized health care professionals view patients' medication records electronically.

Beginning in mid-October, the PIP Medication Profile Viewer will be rolled out to emergency rooms in Regina and Saskatoon and a limited number of pharmacies, physicians' offices, home-care sites and long-term care facilities throughout the province. The Viewer will allow health care professionals involved in this initial phase of the project to see the prescription profiles of their patients.

By viewing full prescription profiles, health care professionals can see what medications a patient may already be taking. This will help prescribers choose the best possible drugs to treat patients to avoid harmful drug interactions. It will also prevent the duplication of therapy and prescription drug abuse. The PIP Viewer will prove especially useful for health-care providers treating people who have been prescribed a number of medications, or those who have several doctors or pharmacists involved in their care.

Amendments to *The Prescription Drugs Act*, made in 2002, authorized Saskatchewan Health to develop the prescription database available through PIP. Prior to the introduction of the program, doctors and pharmacists did not have a complete source of prescription information to refer to when making decisions about drug therapy.

The PIP Viewer will be extended in future phases to include information entered directly by physicians and other health care providers. This could include things like allergy information and prescriptions entered electronically by prescribers.

While most people would agree there are many benefits associated with participating in this program, some patients may prefer not to share their prescription information. These people can request a "masking" option, which will hide their prescription information from view. Individuals who would like to investigate this option should be advised to phone Saskatchewan Health's privacy call centre, at 1-800-667-1672, or go to Health's website at [www.health.gov.sk.ca](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca).

Patients should also be aware that masking may be removed in critical health situations, such as in emergencies or to prevent harm to patients. As well, patients will be able to request a printout of the names of people who have viewed their prescription information.

PIP is driven by challenges contained in *The Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care*, the province's blueprint on health service provision. The program has also evolved in response to recommendations made by the Coroner's inquest into the death of Darcy Dean Ironchild. Mr. Ironchild was the Saskatoon man who died from an overdose of prescription medications in 2000. He received more than 300 prescriptions in the year before his death.

Canada Health Infoway has been an important partner in PIP, contributing approximately \$5 million of the \$7 million invested in the project.

People who have general questions about the Pharmaceutical Information Program can contact the department at: Saskatchewan Health, Drug Plan & Extended Benefits Branch, 3475 Albert Street, Regina, SK S4S 6X6. In Regina: 787-8963. In Saskatchewan: 1-800-667-1672. Website: [www.health.gov.sk.ca](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca).

### SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS

#### 95<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

To be held in conjunction with the

#### RBSP 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and General Meeting

**April 28 to 30, 2006**

#### Marlboro Inn

67 13th Street East  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
(Mention RBSP and receive a preferred rate)

Programs and registration forms will be mailed in February 2006

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## SCP Council 2005-06

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(term expires June 30, 2007)  
President-Elect

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(term expires June 30, 2006)

### Division 3

Randy Wiser, Prince Albert  
(term expires June 30, 2007)

### Division 4

Bev Allen, Saskatoon  
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### Division 5

Bill Paterson, Regina  
(term expires June 30, 2007)  
Past President

### Division 6

Corry MacWilliam, Swift Current  
(term expires June 30, 2006)

### Division 7

Debbie McCulloch, Rosetown  
(term expires June 30, 2007)  
President

### Division 8

Melanie McLeod, Regina  
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### Ex Officio

Dean Dennis Gorecki  
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition,  
Saskatoon

### Public

Lavonne Heck  
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Cynthia Berry

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Administrative Assistant

Ray Joubert,  
Registrar

Cheryl Klein,  
Senior Administrative Assistant

Heather Neirinck,  
Administrative Assistant

Lori Postnikoff, Field Officer

## Council Highlights – September 20-21, 2005

The regular business meeting of Council convened in Regina on September 20 and 21, 2005. Jannice Moore, our Governance Coach, attended in the afternoon for a session orientation and Policy Governance review for new and veteran councillors.

Based on information obtained from the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society and the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists, Council is contemplating undertaking a **public opinion via planning research study**. Council will use the information gained from the survey questions to validate our ENDS policies and assist in the planning process.

Council approved the agenda of the **Fall District Meetings**. Notice to members regarding date, time and location for each venue was distributed via the Newsletter, E-Link, website, and via facsimile to pharmacies.

Scott Priddell, Project Director for the **Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) Project**, met with Council to provide a demonstration of the **PIP Medication Profile Viewer (MPV)** and answer questions. The PIP viewer is in pre-production update (involves five emergency room and hospital pharmacies; 10 physician clinics; 50 pharmacies; and Regina and Saskatoon Cancer Agencies). Feedback will be gathered and analyzed to validate and inform plans for the full roll-out. The full roll-out will include all emergency rooms and pharmacies with the technical capacity to implement the Medication Profile Viewer.

The College is currently working with Saskatchewan Health to enable SCP to access the **ADAPT Database** to identify data requirements for secondary purposes. The College, along with the regulatory bodies for medicine, nursing and dentistry have identified their data requirements for these purposes. As this nears completion, we have agreed to our data access requirement for the **Triplicate Prescription Program** and that the development

of this capability become the first priority. The reasoning is that our experience with accessing and using data for the TPP will more properly guide development of access for the other purposes.

The TPP funding partners have met to review the current program to prepare for this data access capability. Because prescription data is being captured electronically into the ADAPT database, and Saskatchewan Health has agreed to make this data available to the respective regulatory bodies, an important opportunity exists to change the program to enhance its effectiveness. Many changes have been proposed, some of which were discussed at the recent district meetings. One of the major changes that the partners have agreed to is the expansion of the list of monitored drugs to include most, if not all, mood modifying drugs. This list shall be the same as the list of drugs that can be unmasked under PIP and will include benzodiazepines.

The regulatory bodies will pass bylaws that are parallel or complementary to one another to synchronize the program requirements amongst the participating professions.

SCP has requested use of the ADAPT database for: complaints investigations; pharmacy and professional practice evaluations; competency assurance processes and drug use management strategies (i.e. drug utilization reviews). Further access details will be developed.

Members have been asking for a **network solution** to monitor sales of **Exempted Codeine Products**. Because the Drug Plan is authorized to only collect data into the ADAPT database for drugs that are prescribed, prescription status is the only option by which the data on these products can be made available to the pharmacist via PIP. In order to not change patient access to these products, it is proposed that these products be reclassified as prescription drugs (i.e. Schedule I in Saskatchewan) and that pharma-

cists be given authority to prescribe them.

Members have also raised concerns with the package size restrictions citing that while they may be effective in preventing inadvertent addiction, they unreasonably limit access for what they consider to be legitimate use. Further, we are also advised that the restrictions do not curtail abusive drug-seeking behaviours. Thus Council accepted in principle a proposal to also eliminate the quantity restrictions.

To move forward with this initiative, the College, in consultation with our Professional Practice Committee and with pharmacy computer system vendors, will **develop computer solutions** to transmit sales and meet the requirements of the bylaws and guidelines especially respecting documentation and record-keeping. Council has accepted this concept in principle. **Next**

**steps** are to ask the Minister of Health to: pursue an amendment to the *Drug Schedules Regulations, 1997*, to provide prescriptive authority to pharmacists under these circumstances and to approve Bylaw amendments for codeine and its salts to be deleted from Schedule II and added to Schedule I of the Bylaws.

NAPRA has distributed to the member Professional Regulatory Authorities a document, **Supplemental Standards of Practice for Schedule II and III Drugs**, to supplement the *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists*, April 2003. The supplemental document takes into account that pharmacy practice has evolved since 1995 when the document *Standards of Practice – Nonprescription Drugs* was written. It takes the original standards and aligns compliance requirements with the standard to

improve clarity and suggest optimal practice standards. Council has referred the document to the Professional Practice Committee for comment prior to the next Council meeting.

Council welcomed Dean Dennis Gorecki back to the Council table following a successful administrative leave. Dean Gorecki provided a report to Council highlighting recent events at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, and he gave an update on the faculty and student body.

For the 2005-06 school year, the number of highly qualified applications for admission continued to be high. In the pharmacy program total applicants were 663 (566 in '04-'05) with a total enrolment of 338 (329 in '04-'05) [maximum 90 students per year]. We wish all students a successful year at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

## Membership Summary – July 1, 2005

As of July 1, 2005, there were a total of **1389 members** on the register. This represents a net gain of 18 members. The total consists of 1158 Practising members, 60 Non Practising members, 89 Associate members and 82 Retired members.

We wish to welcome our newest members, and encourage them to become active in their profession, both within their communities, and provincially by working with the regulatory and advocacy bodies.

From January 1, 2005, to June 30, 2005, 48 graduates of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan, registered with our College (compared with 38 grads in 2004). Between May 26 and June 30, a total of 26 of those graduates held a Conditional Practising membership prior to receiving their Certificate of Qualification from the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada. In addition, five new members from outside of Saskatchewan registered under the Mutual Recognition Agreement requirements. No foreign-trained candidates registered.

### Membership Renewal Summary – As of July 1

	2003	2004	2005
<b>Practising Members</b>	<b>1116</b>	<b>1134</b>	<b>1158</b>
Community	860	843	890
Hospital	171	174	175
Out of Province	33	34	37
Other	52	83	56
<b>Non Practising Members</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Associate Members</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Retired Members</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>1371</b>	<b>1389</b>
<b>Membership Terminations</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>

## Sask. Institute of Health Leadership

The Saskatchewan Institute of Health Leadership (SIHL) will be offering its third session in 2006. The aim of the Institute is to bring together professionals from all disciplines and all levels within the healthcare system to foster leadership potential, skills and the creation of a leadership community that works together to promote, support and sustain good health. SIHL is the first program of its kind in Canada.

SIHL supports the goals of the provincial government by: building upon leadership and professional development within an interdisciplinary context; and ensuring a new generation of skilled healthcare leaders.

This seven-month program begins with a four-day Institute Retreat in Regina, Saskatchewan, May 15-19, 2006, with SIHL Course Presenters and Facilitators. A two-day follow-up retreat will take place November 16-17, 2006.

For further information, contact the SIHL office at 306-585-5801 or e-mail: [SIHL@uregina.ca](mailto:SIHL@uregina.ca).

## Discipline Committee Decision and Order

On June 20-21, 2005, the Discipline Committee (the "Committee") was constituted to consider charges that the Respondents Robert M. Jones and Robert Travis were guilty of professional incompetence and misconduct within the meaning of sections 24 and 25 of *The Pharmacy Act, 1996* (the "Act"), and that the Respondent Robert Jones Drugs Inc. o/a Price Rite Guardian Drugs (the "Pharmacy") was guilty of proprietary misconduct within the meaning of section 26 of the Act.

The matter proceeded by way of an Agreed Statement of Facts. In summary, the Respondents dispensed the narcotics Talwin® and Ritalin® that were used in a substantial drug trafficking scheme that was masterminded by a third individual. The agreed evidence was that in total approximately 17,000 narcotic pills had been trafficked by the individual and or others participating in this criminal scheme. The majority of these drugs were dispensed from the Pharmacy by Mr. Jones and/or Mr. Travis although the Committee noted in its decision that Mr. Travis' involvement was more limited than that of Mr. Jones, who also served as manager of the Pharmacy.

The allegations, which had been substantially admitted, were described by the Committee to be "extremely serious". The Committee, in their Decision, also stated that, "while pharmacists cannot be expected to be absolute guardians against the misuse of drugs dispensed from their pharmacies, they are expected to discharge their professional responsibilities and thereby serve as one of the guardians against this type of abuse and misuse."

The Complaints Committee and the Respondents presented the Committee with a Joint Submission as to Penalty, agreeing to all matters

in relation to the appropriate Orders to be made pursuant to sections 34 and 35 of the Act, except for the issue of whether there should be a suspension of Mr. Jones' licence, and the length of that suspension. The Committee substantially accepted the joint submission and made the following orders pursuant to sections 34 and 35 of the Act:

1. The Pharmacy, Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis are each reprimanded.
2. Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis shall successfully complete, at their own expense and within 12 months hereof, remedial training in the following areas:
  - (a) Professional judgment including ethical and therapeutic decision making, interviewing and intervention skills and patient management skills;
  - (b) Jurisprudence and ethics; and
  - (c) Documentation and communication.

The Committee further directed that Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis undergo remedial training (as agreed, or as further ordered by the Committee) and Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis shall sit such exams as the Registrar of the College may reasonably set. For greater certainty, all costs of establishing, monitoring and administering this remedial training and testing shall be borne by Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis.

3. All matters relating to the Pharmacy and the professional practices of the Pharmacy and Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis (including, but not limited to the documentation storage and retrieval policies and practices and communications practices utilized at the Pharmacy and by Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis either at the Pharmacy

or any other pharmacy location they may practice at) shall be the subject of not fewer than three full reviews by a field officer of the College, such reviews to take place not less frequently than annually, for a period of three years commencing one year after the conclusion of the suspension of the licence of Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis shall, as a condition of their continued licence to practise (and the Pharmacy as a condition of its proprietary pharmacy permit) follow all recommendations made by the field officer arising out of that review.

The cost of each such review will be borne by the Pharmacy, Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis, on a joint and several basis, which costs will be fixed in the amount of \$300.00, and shall be paid within 30 days of the conclusion of each such review. For greater certainty:

- (a) The costs for the reviews directed pursuant to this paragraph 3 are in addition to the costs ordered pursuant to paragraph 4 below; and
- (b) The reviews ordered pursuant to this paragraph 3 are in addition to, and not in substitution for, any other investigative or remedial authority or power that may be exercised by the College in relation to the Pharmacy and/or in relation to the professional practices of either Mr. Jones or Mr. Travis.

4. The Pharmacy, Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis shall be jointly and severally liable to pay the costs of the investigation and hearing in this matter, which costs are hereby fixed in the amount of \$10,000.00. Such costs shall be paid on or before December 31,

2005. Failing payment, the licences of Mr. Jones and Mr. Travis shall be suspended and the proprietary permit issued to the Pharmacy shall be suspended until payment is made.

5. The licence of Mr. Jones to practise as a pharmacist shall be, and hereby is, suspended for a period of four months, commencing on a date to be designated by Mr. Jones in writing to the Registrar of the College, such date to be not later than August 1, 2005.
6. The Registrar of the College shall provide a copy of this Order to the Regina Integrated Drug Unit to the attention of Sergeant T. Quinn. Further, a summary of the circumstances surrounding the charge and this discipline order (including for greater certainty the names of the Respondents) shall be published in the College newsletter.

A Notice of Motion was received at the College office on July 14, 2005, seeking an order under section 43 of the Act for a stay of the suspension order for Mr. Jones pending the disposition of the appeal. Also on July 14, 2005 a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench was served on the office of the Registrar. The stay was granted on condition that the appeal would proceed as agreed on August 18, 2005. On August 18, 2005, Justice Kyle of the Court of Queen's Bench dismissed the appeal and directed that the suspension begin on September 1, 2005.

Pursuant to the suspension of Mr. Jones' licence in accordance with sections 36 and 19 of the Act, he was not entitled to be named as a director of the operating company for Price-Rite Guardian Drugs or to be the pharmacy manager for the period of the suspension.

## Taking Ownership of Your Health

### Seniors' Education Centre 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gerontology Institute

You are invited to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gerontology Institute if you are interested in aging well and/or caring for older adults. The Institute, to be held Thursday, November 17, 2005, at the Regina Inn, 1975 Broad Street, Regina, will be a day of plenary sessions and interactive panel presentations delivered by experts in the areas of wellness and gerontology. Those working in community programs, private care homes, long term care facilities, and hospitals, as well as older adults, will learn about issues of concern to older adults in Saskatchewan.

Program details and registration forms are available at [www.uregina.ca/cce/seniors](http://www.uregina.ca/cce/seniors) or call 585-5816 in Regina or 655-8720 in Saskatoon. Space is limited, so register early!

## Notices for Pharmacists

The following notices from Health Canada for September and October 2005 can be viewed on the NAPRA website, [www.napra.ca](http://www.napra.ca)

NAPRA distributes via E-Link all notices from Health Canada.

To enlist on the E-Link subscription, please contact Cheryl Klein at the SCP office.

- *Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on Paxil (paroxetine) – (October 13, 2005)*
- *Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on Strattera (atomoxetine hydrochloride) – (October 4, 2005)*
- *Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on Inappropriate Administration of Nimotop (Nimodipine) Capsules – (October 4, 2005)*
- *Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on Celebrex (celecoxib) Capsules – (September 21, 2005)*
- *Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on Duragesic (fentanyl transdermal system) – (September 21, 2005)*
- *Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on Serevent – (September 15, 2005)*
- *Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on Foradil (formoterol fumarate) – (September 15, 2005)*
- *Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on Oxeze (formoterol fumarate dihydrate) Turbuhaler – (September 15, 2005)*
- *Health Canada Issued Important Safety Information on Thioridazine – (September 8, 2005)*
- *Health Canada Endorsed Important Safety Information on Adderall XR – (September 8, 2005)*

## Convocation Luncheon – May 26, 2005

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists was proud to host the 2005 Convocation Luncheon at the Saskatoon Centennial Auditorium to recognize the 2005 Pharmacy Class of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. SCP President-Elect Debbie McCulloch assumed the role of Master of Ceremonies, and during the program offered her congratulations to the graduates.

In attendance to honour the 80 BSP graduates were representatives of SCP Council and staff, members of the SCP (many of who had an active role as preceptors in the SPEP program), representatives of the Representative Board of Saskatchewan Pharmacists (RBSP), Acting Dean Linda Suveges, Assistant Dean Dr. Fred Remillard, faculty, parents, family and friends of the graduates.

The two major awards of the day, the SCP Gold Medal and the Campbell Prize, were presented by SCP Vice President Jeannette Sandiford.

**Andria Sara Marie Sutherland** was the recipient of the SCP Gold Medal. The prize is awarded annually to the most distinguished graduate of the class. Having received several scholarships and academic awards during her years at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, she received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy with great dis-



*Andria Sutherland receiving the SCP Gold Medal from Jeannette Sandiford.*



*Jeannette Sandiford presenting Ashley Tait with the Campbell Prize.*

inction, achieving a four-year average of 87.09%. Andria also holds a B.Sc (Honors) in Chemistry from the University of Saskatchewan and a M.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Victoria.

**Ashley Lee-Ann Tait** was awarded the Campbell Prize as the second most distinguished graduate of the class of 2005. Ashley has also received several scholarships and

academic awards, and received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy with great distinction with a four-year average of 86.88%.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Andria and Ashley, and all of the graduates of the Class of 2005. As you pursue your chosen path, we anticipate hearing tremendous things of each of you!

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## Improving Drug Management Practices for Seniors

The SCP, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association are pleased to announce their commitment to work collaboratively with the Health Quality Council (HQC) to improve drug management practices for senior citizens living in the community. A press release relating to this issue is included in this mailing.

Please also review the HQC paper, *"Improving the Quality of Drug Management of Saskatchewan Seniors Living in the Commu-*

*nity"* that is provided as an insert.

This Executive Summary of the HQC's recent study of prescription drug utilization by Saskatchewan seniors focuses on drugs that may carry special risk of harm for seniors. Dr. Mark Beers, a world-renowned gerontologist, has identified these drugs.

For more information on the study, or regarding the Beers criteria which offers alternatives to these high-risk medications for use in the elderly, check the HQC website, [www.hqc.sk.ca](http://www.hqc.sk.ca).

## CPhA Brochures

New information pieces created by the Canadian Pharmacists Association entitled, "The Role of the Pharmacist", and "Expanding the Role of Pharmacists", are available.

These new resources provide a plain language description to government and stakeholders around the education, roles, responsibilities and capabilities of pharmacists. Young people thinking about going into the profession may also find them useful.

Check out the CPhA website at [www.pharmacists.ca](http://www.pharmacists.ca) for further information.

## **Ketamine – Schedule I**

*Publication of the Regulations Amending the Food and Drug Regulations (FDR) and the Narcotic Control Regulations (NCR), and the Order Amending Schedule I of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) (Ketamine)*

This is to advise that the regulatory amendments to remove the substance ketamine from Schedule F to the FDR, and to explicitly list it in Schedule I to the CDSA and the Schedule to the NCR, came into force on August 31, 2005 and were published in the Canada Gazette, Part II, on September 21, 2005.

On May 6, 2005, Health Canada issued a notice that following research and analysis of the options for scheduling of ketamine under the CDSA, it was concluded that ketamine is an analogue of phencyclidine (PCP), and is, therefore, captured under item 14 in Schedule I of the CDSA and item 14 in the Narcotic Control Regulations (NCR).

Section 58 of the CDSA gives priority to substances listed under its Act and Regulations, stating:

“In the case of any inconsistency or conflict between this Act or the regulations made under it, and the Food and Drugs Act or the regulations made under that Act, this Act and the regulations made under it prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.”

With this determination, all offences and penalties associated with Schedule I to the CDSA became applicable to ketamine including: possession, trafficking, possession for the purpose of trafficking, importation, exportation, possession for the purpose of exportation, and production.

Any persons involved in the distribution of any product containing ketamine are required to comply with the requirements of the NCR. All persons conducting research using ketamine are required to apply for an exemption under CDSA.

## **FlavoRx Inc.**

FlavoRx Inc. introduced its services to Canadian pharmacies in July 2005. From the website for this product:

“The **FLAVORx** Medical Flavoring System is a tool used by pharmacists to safely flavor both liquid prescriptions and over-the-counter medications to make them more palatable without altering their stability or efficacy.”

We are advised that satisfactory technical data exists to support the use of this service. We wish to remind you of your usual and customary obligations with regard to compounded products whether products are dispensed pursuant to a prescription or for non-prescription products. Generally, we support such practices when the additive is intended to enhance the outcome of the pharmacotherapy.

From Mr. Robert White, Director, Government Relations with Nonprescription Drug Manufacturers Association of Canada (ndmac):

*“Nonprescription drugs are carefully formulated and manufactured to a very strict set of regulations necessary to ensure the product’s purity, efficacy, and safety, and meet Good Manufacturing Practices regulations. Manufacturers cannot*

*be held accountable for safety, efficacy or stability if nonprescription drugs have agents added to them after final packaging.”*

Pharmacists are expected to accept responsibility for any product that they compound, formulate, adulterate, or otherwise prepare for the purpose of dispensing or administration. This includes responsibility to demonstrate that they have, or are satisfied with, the evidence that validates the effect, if any, an additive would have on the kinetics, bio-availability, safety and/or any other characteristic of any product that they compound, formulate, adulterate, or otherwise prepare. Failure to meet these responsibilities would be considered professional misconduct if such behaviour failed to meet the standard of the reasonably prudent pharmacist acting under similar circumstances.

We agree with *ndmac’s* position that there be application of a dispensing label to the immediate container and creation of appropriate patient records, if you have altered a finished product. The consumer must be informed that the product has been altered from the original product produced by the manufacturer.

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## **Methadone Prescriber Policy**

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS) has a policy for methadone prescribing to stable patients.

Currently in Saskatchewan, physicians can be authorized to prescribe methadone: for addiction purposes; for pain relief only; and for both addiction and pain relief purposes. These physicians may initiate new patients on methadone.

A relatively new designation is that of “2<sup>nd</sup> Level Prescriber”. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Prescriber is a physician who will NOT initiate new patients on methadone, but who will have patients from their area that are already stabilized on methadone returned to their care for maintenance only. Such physicians will be

subject to an audit of their methadone practice by CPSS and will only prescribe to those stable patients referred to them by a physician with full methadone prescribing privileges.

These individuals know what their limitations are with regard to methadone prescribing. What this means for the pharmacist who is presented a prescription from one of the two physicians currently designated as 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Prescribers, is that the pharmacist would fill the prescription as they would for any authorized methadone prescriber. If you wish to verify who is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Prescriber or should you have any other questions regarding this initiative, please contact the CPSS at 306-244-7355 in Saskatoon.

**PHARMACIST REQUIRED**

Southern Saskatchewan Co-operative in Assiniboia seeking a full-time permanent Pharmacist for organization.

Country living, affordable housing, sports and recreation. Excellent compensation package to the right individual.

Contact: Ken @ 306-642-3390 or southlandcoop.ken@sasktel.net

**PHARMACIST WANTED**

Tired of fast-paced city life & working long hours? Would you like to raise your family in a safe and secure community?

**SAPARA'S DRUG MART LTD.**

Requires a Full-Time or Part-Time Pharmacist  
Competitive salary and benefits  
Open Monday-Saturday, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Esterhazy, SK (pop. 3000) has a beautiful golf course in a valley setting, swimming pool, tennis courts, skating arena/curling rink, fitness centers, extensive cross country ski and walking trails, and offers a variety of seasonal sporting activities/clubs for youth and adults. The town is situated close to lakes, parks, snowmobile trails and downhill ski areas. Elementary (K-5) and High School (6-12) offer excellent academics and extracurricular programs. Mosaic Potash, the main employer of the town operates two mine sites in the area.

**Please submit resumé to:**

Keith Sapara  
P.O. Box 250, Esterhazy, SK S0A 0X0  
306-745-6662 / 306-745-2450  
Fax: 306-745-6654  
Email: randksapara@accesscomm.ca



**Opportunities available for licensed pharmacists in Saskatchewan:**

Estevan, Meadow Lake, Melfort, Melville, Nipawin, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Weyburn, Yorkton

Full-time area relief positions based in Northern Saskatchewan and Southern Saskatchewan

**Please contact:**

DRUGStore Pharmacy National Recruitment Centre

Phone 1-877 NATL JOB  
(1-877-628-5562)  
Fax 1-866 NATL FAX  
(1-866-628-5329)

E-mail jobs@drugstorepharmacy.ca  
Online www.drugstorepharmacy.ca

**Shoppers Drug Mart 448 Preston Crossing Saskatoon**

Part-time Pharmacist Position available immediately.

Please contact Steve Robertson/Carol Soron at 306-933-9410.

New concept-large format pharmacy open 8-10 daily.

**■ We Support Our Pharmacists in Reaching Their Career Goals**



At Pharmasave, we believe in the philosophy that puts people first – our staff, our clients, and our community. If you are looking for exciting opportunities, excellent compensation, dynamic and flexible work environments, then consider a career with Pharmasave. We are committed to assisting our Pharmacists to be the best they can be.

Pharmasave Drugs (Pacific) Ltd. is currently recruiting BC Licensed Pharmacists in the following BC locations: 100 Mile House, Chilliwack, Mackenzie, Merritt, Salt Spring Island, Sechelt and Summerland.

- Vital to success in these Pharmacist positions;
- An ability to work well in a team orientated environment
  - Exceptional communication
  - An awareness of time management
  - Excellent organizational and leadership skills
- Applications are welcome from all qualified Pharmacists.

**One Stop. One Goal.**

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Reply in confidence to:  
**Ken Foreman, BSc. (Pharm), RPh.**  
Manager, Pharmacy Innovation  
Phone: 1-800-665-3344 Ext. 216  
Fax: 604-532-1785 / kforeman@bc.pharmasave.ca



## A Multidisciplinary Initiative for Educating and Supporting Individuals Waiting for Elective Joint Replacement Surgery

There is a new multidisciplinary initiative of health-care professionals in the Saskatoon Health Region to give support and information to patients waiting for elective joint replacement surgery. Disciplines involved include client/patient access services, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, nutrition and dietetics, clinical health psychology, social work, recreation therapy and older adult wellness.

ADAPT (Arthritis, Diet, Activity, Pain and Therapy), established by Carol Melymick, Nursing Manager, SCH Orthopedics, together with Suzanne Sheppard, Professional Leader, Physical Therapy, is working together with Telehealth Saskatchewan to improve the health and well being of individuals waiting for elective hip or knee replacement surgery. (This program is in no way

related to the ADAPT database program of Saskatchewan Health).

The aim of the program is to improve the physical health (through diet and exercise), the well being (through better pain control, and improved function with or without aids), and the mental health (an increased positive outlook and decreased anxiety) of participants as they wait for surgery. It is hoped that participants will leave with the simple take-home message of ... "this is what you need to do in order to be better prepared for your surgery."

Since April 2005, ADAPT hosted five sessions in Saskatoon, with up to sixteen telehealth sites participating across the province. Individuals on the SHR elective joint replacement surgery waiting list are invited to attend at no cost, along with a

support person. The session is a forum for the multidisciplinary team to provide relevant information related to what to do while waiting for surgery, as well as an opportunity for participants to ask questions. To date, over eight hundred participants (people waiting for surgery, support people, and staff) have attended one of five education afternoons, either in person or via telehealth. The sessions have been enthusiastically received. According to a telehealth coordinator, one participant summarized the afternoon when they said, "Now we know what to do ... Now we just have to do it!"

Future education programs are scheduled for November 22, 2005, as well as being planned for 2006. For further information contact the ADAPT Program at 306-655-7916.

### SCP AWARDS – INVITATION FOR NOMINATIONS

#### Awards and Honours Committee – Member Recognition

Each year we take the opportunity to recognize those members who have contributed to the profession and their communities during the annual conference.

The joint SCP and RBSP Awards and Honours Committee invites you to nominate a colleague(s) who has made significant contributions to the profession and his/her community, and is justly deserving of a College award.

The Awards Committee wishes to offer the following general information to assist as you contemplate your nominations.

#### Members

- **Honorary Life Member**  
Recognizes a pharmacist for outstanding contributions to the profession or the College.
- **Presidential Citation**  
Recognizes a pharmacist who has provided exemplary service through the practice of pharmacy, to the profession or to society, which is beyond the normal call of professional or voluntary duty.
- **Certificate of Recognition**  
Recognizes a pharmacist for outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists.

#### Non-Members

- **Honorary Member**  
Recognizes any person for outstanding contributions to the profession and/or the College beyond the normal call of professional or voluntary obligations.
- **Award of Merit**  
Recognizes any person, who through their active participation, has promoted the College and/or the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan.

Nomination forms and/or terms of reference for these awards are available upon request from the SCP office. Criteria for each award will be outlined in the December issue of the Newsletter.

**Deadline for receipt of nominations is January 31, 2006.**

## Prescription Validity

In 2004 the College Council approved the adoption of the NAPRA document, *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists*, as the standards of practice for Saskatchewan pharmacists. At the same time they did not want to abandon the prior standards of practice outlined in the SPhA document, *Standards of Practice for Saskatchewan Pharmacists*, which was approved by the SPhA Council in November 1989. These standards have been retained as a policy document for the College and its members.

Council's position is: "A prescription is only valid for 12 months from the date it was issued provided that the prescribing physician is attending the patient." This means that a prescription becomes invalid when it exceeds 12 months of age or when the physician ceases to

attend the patient for reasons such as, but not limited to, death, retirement, leaving practice.

## EPC and Notification to General Practitioner

**Reminder:** When a qualified pharmacist prescribes emergency contraception, the patient's medical practitioner should be informed. This notifies the practitioner that a further discussion regarding contraceptive options may be warranted. If the patient does not agree to your sharing this information, you would conform to the patient's wishes, unless there was a risk of harm to the individual.

Bylaw 14.13.10.4 states: When a pharmacist prescribes and sells a Schedule I drug pursuant to section 14.13.10.2, he shall, with consent of the patient, communicate his decision to the medical practitioner at the earliest possible opportunity.

## Demystifying the Smokers' Helpline and Fax Referral

*A message from the Canadian Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan*

The Canadian Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan thank you for utilizing the Smokers' Helpline Fax Referral Program. We had a great start; and your continuing participation is welcomed and appreciated. Anecdotally, health care professionals using the fax referral program report getting good results and great feedback from their patients. Using the Fax Referral Program routinely will reduce the serious and disastrous health effects of tobacco use and exposure.

Three minutes of your time can help to positively alter the life of a smoker. I encourage you to continue to use the Fax Referral Program and use the five A's. Ask! Advise! Assess! Assist! and Arrange to have your patient fill in a fax referral form! Please display the Smokers' Helpline posters and materials prominently in your pharmacy and routinely ask patients about their exposure to tobacco.

Partnerships result in a win for everyone concerned. Most importantly, the patient gains access to smoking cessation counselling and a wide range of materials on the topic. Double your patients' rate of success; continue to utilize the Fax Referral Program.

If you require any supplies or further information, please feel free to call:

Kelly Pierson  
Smokers' Helpline Coordinator  
306-790-5816  
Email: [kpierson@sk.cancer.ca](mailto:kpierson@sk.cancer.ca)



**1 877 513-5333**  
**SMOKERS' HELPLINE**

## Your Assistance is Requested – Diamond Jubilee Pharmacy Scholarship Fund

In 1953 the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association raised a Fund by way of contribution from its members for the purpose of paying scholarships to one or more students duly enrolled and actively engaged in the study of pharmacy in the College of Pharmacy in the University of Saskatchewan. By 1971 the Fund and income therefrom had been exhausted.

The Association Council in January 1971 established The Diamond Jubilee Pharmacy Scholarship Fund, "to provide financial assistance and incentive to pharmacy students duly enrolled and actively engaged in the study of pharmacy". In the years since the new Fund's inception, many students have benefited from the generosity of pharmacists and pharmacies across the province.

Unfortunately, as had happened to the original Fund, rates of return on the Diamond Jubilee Pharmacy Scholarship Fund have not kept pace with the cost of providing the scholarships and we now find ourselves utilizing the principal to fulfill these awards. All too soon we will be in the same situation the Council found itself in 1970 – insufficient funds to continue the Scholarship program. You can help!

The Fund is in need of donations in order to continue to recognize the best and brightest this province develops. The Diamond Jubilee Pharmacy Scholarship Fund is registered as a Charitable Foundation with Canada Revenue Agency and as such, donations are tax deductible.

Please remember the Diamond Jubilee Pharmacy Scholarship Fund when determining your charitable donations each year – this year's award winner may be our profession's future leader.