



What You Should Know About RN(NP)s

The following information has been provided by the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA).

Regulations enabling the licensure of a Registered Nurse (Nurse Practitioner) RN(NP) were approved in May 2004. Since that time SCP has received inquiries as to what this designation indicates and how these practitioners differ from RNs.

RN(NP)s diagnose health problems and prescribe medications, as well as advocate for health promotion and disease prevention. They look beyond treating the ailment, consider non-medical intervention and encourage self-care. Their work with physicians and other health care team members will improve access to timely quality care. The process of authorization for a RN to become a RN(NP) is rigorous, requiring two years of additional education. They are still a relatively new addition to the nursing workforce.

In addition to the defined scope of practice of all RNs, RN(NP)s have the authorization and education to:

diagnose and treat common medical disorders; order, perform, receive and/or interpret reports of screening and diagnostic tests; prescribe and/or dispense drugs; and perform minor surgical and invasive procedures. The 2004 amendments to *The Drug Schedules Regulations 1997*:

- allow a pharmacist to dispense drugs pursuant to a prescription from a RN(NP)
- empower a RN(NP) to prescribe any drug listed in Schedules I, II or III and unscheduled drugs to treat humans **subject to the SRNA bylaws**, which state RN(NP)s can prescribe drugs as per the Saskatchewan Health Formulary, Health Canada Non-insured Health Benefits and over-the-counter drugs.
- RN(NP)s **DO NOT** have prescriptive authority to prescribe narcotics, controlled drugs, benzodiazepines and targeted substances as per the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada)* and the *Narcotic Control Regulations*.

Q: Can a RN(NP) prescribe any drug found in the Saskatchewan Health Formulary?

A: No, RN(NP)s are to assess, diagnose and treat common medical disorders, therefore their prescriptive authority is limited to prescribing drugs that are used to treat common medical disorders. Common medical disorders are defined in the RN(NP) competencies as conditions, diseases or disorders that RN(NP)s see regularly within the particular context of their practice.

Q: Can a RN(NP) prescribe Benzodiazepines?

A: No, this category of drugs falls under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada)*. Currently, it does not recognize RN(NP)s as "practitioners" authorized to prescribe substances under the authority of this Act.

Q: As a pharmacist, am I allowed to fill a prescription which is written by a RN(NP) working in an independent practice?

A: Yes, RN(NP)s may function as independent practitioners. The prescribed drug must be used to treat common medical disorders.

Q: Can RNs (Registered Nurses) order/prescribe over-the-counter medications?

A: No. RNs do not have the authority to order/prescribe over-the-counter medications. This belongs within the scope of the RN(NP). It requires the diagnosing of a common medical disorder and the prescribing of a medication. The RN Act and SRNA Bylaws do not authorize general category RNs to diagnose common medical disorders and/or prescribe medications. Therefore, only RN(NP)s can or

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SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS

94th Annual General Meeting

To be held in conjunction with the

RBSP 4th Annual Conference and General Meeting

April 8 to 10, 2005

Regina Inn

1975 Broad Street

Regina, Saskatchewan

Watch for further details coming in early 2005

Mark your calendars now!

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Council Highlights – September 13, 2004

On September 13, 2004, Jan Moore, Council's governance coach, conducted an introduction/refresher session on Policy Governance®. This was an opportunity for new councillors to become familiar with this method of Board governance with specific examples raised by veteran councillors. Following Ms. Moore's workshop, an orientation for new members was presented offering an overview of SCP operations and policies.

In the evening, Council reconvened for a presentation, "An Update on Drug Abuse", by Terry Quinn and Caroline Houston of the Regina Police/RCMP Integrated Drug Unit. Their presentation dealt mainly with the increasing availability of methamphetamine in western Canada, and how pharmacists can be effective partners in their efforts to decrease the accessibility of the ingredients required for the manufacture of methamphetamine, many of which are available in pharmacies. While acknowledging that these chemicals are available from other retail outlets, Council agreed that pharmacists have a role to play in preventing drug abuse and reducing the ease of access to these chemicals.

Following the June Council meeting, a request for member feedback regarding sales of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine was sent to all pharmacy managers. Unfortunately, response was poor with only two pharmacy managers replying to the inquiry. To date, while this seems to be a bigger issue in Alberta, there is evidence that methamphetamine use is increasing in the province as well as the emergence of chemical clandestine labs. Members are asked to report any unusual activity to the local police/RCMP detachment.

Council also confirmed that education is the preferred strategy in preventing drug abuse. Council asked that programs be developed to educate members about drug abuse in general, and the methamphetamine problem in particular,

to assist members in dealing with problem patients and educating others.

Council also agreed to support in principle the position of the Alberta College of Pharmacists seeking a national review of the scheduling of these precursor drugs so that they be limited to sale in pharmacies.

Council resumed the meeting Tuesday morning. Council, representatives from the RBSP and their insurance representatives met with representatives from the Canadian Pharmacists Benefits Association. CPBA presented "Occurrence versus Claims Made Malpractice Insurance" to provide Council with information regarding the differences between these two types of malpractice insurance coverage in Canada. In response to concerns with the decreasing availability of occurrence type insurance required as a condition of licensure, and to requests from members for a greater selection of insurance providers, Council asked our Solicitor to review the current malpractice insurance bylaws and these two types of insurance to ensure the availability of acceptable coverage to provide adequate protection for the public. Council plans to finalize a decision before the next licence renewal period.

Council conducted a review of some of the ENDS, Executive Limitations and Governance Process policies of the College. As Council becomes more familiar with the process, the annual review of policies has kept Council responsive with respect to the many changes occurring within the profession.

Gary Groves has been selected as the new SCP University of Saskatchewan Senate Appointee. Gary will join two other SCP members on the Senate: Margaret Wheaton who is an elected Senator, and Brian Henderson who currently represents the alumni on the Senate.

Council supported the Health Canada notice to de-regulate levonorgestrel for emergency contraception from prescription to

non-prescription status and the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee recommendation for Schedule II status. Therefore, Council approved amending Schedule II in our bylaws by adding "Levonorgestrel, when sold in concentrations of 0.75 mg per oral dosage unit" to become effective when it becomes exempted from Schedule F of the *Food and Drug Regulations*.

Council had earlier passed bylaws to broaden the scope of our authority over Internet pharmacies.

This was intended to include those who are warehousing or wholesaling drugs, or are contracted to dispense prescriptions on behalf of pharmacies providing international prescription services, and those pharmacies who provide international prescription services regardless of whether or not the Internet is used to promote the services. We submitted these bylaws to Saskatchewan Health for the Minister's approval. Saskatchewan Health

expressed concerns that the bylaws did not deal with all of these situations. Our Solicitor provided revised wording to address these concerns, and Council approved the revisions to become effective as soon as possible.

Members are asked to mark their calendars for the 2005 Annual General Meeting to be held in conjunction with the RBSP 4th Annual Conference in Regina on the weekend of April 8-10, 2005.

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der and prescribe medications, including over-the-counter medications, without a physician's order or an agency authorized medical protocol.

Q: I have worked as a Public Health Nurse for 10 years and have been asked to give flu shots for a local private pharmacy on a contractual basis. Is this within the RN scope of practice?

A: No. A written physician or RN(NP) order is required before a RN can give immunizing agents. Administering an immunizing agent is done only with a physician or RN(NP) order, through a medical directive of Delegation of Medical Function. The authorization for the RN in public health to prescribe the immunizing agent resides with one employer through the delegation of medical function model.

SRNA is the professional regulatory body for the registered nursing profession with a mandate to promote and ensure competent nursing for the people of Saskatchewan. SRNA recognizes the role of the RN(NP) is evolving and that there may be many questions regarding the scope of practice of the RN(NP). Maureen Klenk RN(NP) is available for consultation for health care professionals and/or employers to integrate the role of the RN(NP) in Saskatchewan. Maureen can be reached at 306-359-4225 (toll free 1-800-667-9945 ext 225) or mklenk@srna.org.

Awards and Honours Committee – Member Recognition

Each year during the Annual Conference, we take the opportunity to recognize those members who have contributed to the profession and their communities. The joint SCP and RBSP Awards and Honours Committee invites you to nominate a colleague(s) who you know has made significant contributions to his/her profession and 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.

SCP Awards

Members

- **Honorary Life Member** – recognition of a pharmacist for outstanding contributions to the profession or the College.
- **Presidential Citation** – recognition of 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** – recognition of a pharmacist for outstanding service to the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists.

Non-Members

- **Honorary Member** – recognition of any person for outstanding contributions to the profession and/or the College beyond the normal call of professional or voluntary obligations.
- **Award of Merit** – recognition of 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, 2005.

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SIAST Wascana Campus (Regina)
Nursing Division requires faculty for the
Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
Program. The program is approved by
the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses'
Association for RN (NP) educational
preparation.

Faculty are required to teach the Clinical
Drug Therapy course for four to six
hours per week in an on-line
environment from their home
computer. Course semester lengths are
13 weeks with intakes occurring in
September, January and March. Exact
terms of employment are dependent on
student enrollment.

Salary is commensurate with education
and experience.

To ensure consideration, applications
detailing qualifications, skills, ability
and experience and indicating the
competition number WC21104 must be

received no later than 4:30 p.m.
November 19, 2004 at:

Human Resources

SIAST Wascana Campus
P.O. Box 556 Regina, SK S4P 3A3
Fax (306) 798-9781.

All applicants are thanked for their
interest, however only those to be
interviewed will be contacted.

SIAST is committed to employment equity
and encourages applications from women,
Aboriginal peoples, people with disabilities
and visible minority persons.

For a full listing of job requirements and
qualifications, or for more information on
other SIAST employment opportunities,
visit our website at www.goSIAST.com/hr.



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APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

www.goSIAST.com

Saskatchewan Institute of Health Leadership

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. The Institute focuses on leaders of tomorrow as well as leaders of today.

Following upon the success of the inaugural Saskatchewan Institute of Health Leadership (SIHL) 2004, the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Regina, is pleased to provide information regarding the 2005 Institute.

The seven-month program begins in May 2005 and will conclude in November 2005. A four-day "institute retreat" will take place in

Regina, May 16-20, 2005, with SIHL Course Presenters and Facilitators. A two-day follow-up retreat will take place in November 2005.

The retreat will include:

- lectures and workshops
- group work focusing on six core competency areas
- development of a project proposal to further develop leadership skills

Unique Features

The Saskatchewan Institute of Health Leadership offers the following unique features:

- contemporary leadership theory within a health context
- interdisciplinary focus
- a cohort model
- teamwork

- case-study approach
- practical application of learning
- leadership and community development
- networking
- varied delivery methods
- intersectoral resources
- policy-practice interface
- ongoing facilitation for duration of course.

Registration deadline is April 1, 2005. Please contact the SCP office for more information and/or a registration brochure, or contact SIHL at (306) 585-5801 or SIHL@uregina.ca



P R O F E S S I O N A L O P P O R T U N I T I E S



PHARMACIST

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Email: lkrause@northerndrugs.com

www.northerndrugs.com

Satellite and Lock and Leave Pharmacies – When Pharmacists are Not Available

Satellite pharmacies and Lock and Leave permits have been created to encourage innovative pharmacy services and to respond to community needs. Satellite pharmacies increase the accessibility of pharmacists in communities where these services would not otherwise be available.

Each of these provisions requires that the pharmacist be able to lock the pharmacy and entire professional services area when there is no pharmacist in attendance. No prescriptions should be released from either location when a pharmacist is not present. Non-professional staff should not have access to the Professional Services Area and should not be providing any Schedule I, II or III medications, whether

refills or previously filled prescriptions to patients when a pharmacist is not present. More information is provided in the following Lock and Leave Bylaws:

14.3. In this Bylaw:

“Lock and Leave” means an approved physical enclosure which allows a period or periods of closure of the pharmacy from the remainder of the premises.

“Permit” means a Lock and Leave Permit.

14.3.1.2 **“Professional Services”** means those services such as, but not limited to, dispensing prescriptions, selling drugs, and the education, consultative and counseling functions associated thereto, which may only be performed by a licensed pharmacist.

14.3.3.4 During the periods of closure or operation of the “Lock and Leave”, the pharmacy shall not

be accessible to the public or non-professional staff, and:

a) no drugs may be sold or offered for sale; and

b) non-professional staff may not perform any professional services.

Prescription Transfers

It is unethical for a pharmacist to refuse to transfer a prescription for a Schedule F drug, except when such refusal is in the best interest of the patient. In other words, a pharmacist may refuse to transfer a prescription based on sound professional reasons. Being too busy or not wanting to lose a valued customer is not a sound professional reason.

Only prescriptions for Schedule F Drugs may be transferred from one pharmacist to another. This means that the entire prescription, including all remaining repeats, is transferred. Prescriptions for benzodiazepines and targeted substances may only be transferred once during the life of the prescription.

Deferred/Logged Prescriptions

We note that triplicate prescriptions are being logged and therefore not filled within the three days of the authorization of the prescription. Pharmacists are reminded that a new prescription cancels out all refills of any prescriptions on file. We are told that deferrals occur for exceptional circumstances in which cases we encourage the pharmacist to carefully document the reasons for deferral and to maintain a complete paper trail.

We remind pharmacists to review the patient's profile, the prescription and the time frame prior to filling a deferred Rx to ensure it is still appropriate therapy and that the intent of the original order (physician's intent) is still being fulfilled.

With the oncoming Drug Plan Enhanced Information Collection, the correct dispensing date will be imperative to the accuracy of the data.

E-Link Web Mail

This is a reminder to all members that E-Link is now running and accessible by all members. The National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) provides this email facility.

The College will be using this mail facility to distribute information in a timely and efficient manner. From time to time you may also receive other broadcast bulletins and notices, in particular from NAPRA.

E-Link will provide you with a reliable, secure email system that supports a full-featured, web-based mail client accessible anywhere, anytime, from any Internet-connected computer by pointing your browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape, Safari) to <http://www.napra.ca/express>.

If you should forget your password please contact our office and ask for Cheryl Klein or send a message to support@scp.napra.ca.

We encourage you to use the E-Link service as your primary email account. You may automatically forward your email to another account, which will enable you to automatically receive communications from the College at another email account. We encourage you to logon to the E-Link system.

