4.1 Minor Ailments Prescribing

This is Level I prescribing only according to Council approved guidelines and with specially designed training.

4.1.1 Guidelines - Council has contracted the Saskatchewan Drug Information Service and they have prepared 14 guidelines. They have been submitted for expert review and are awaiting final approval by Council.

4.1.2 Training - Members will be required to undergo the appropriate training before being allowed to prescribe for minor ailments. We will be arranging this with CPDP and hope to announce further details soon. The intent is to familiarize you with the clinical content of the guidelines and how to use them to prescribe safely.

4.1.3 Conducting physical examinations - There appears to be no justification for the need to conduct physical examinations as a routine procedure unless recommended in the guidelines. For example, a physical examination or observation of the lesion such as a cold sore might be needed as part of your assessment to determine if the patient’s self-diagnosis is accurate.

4.1.4 Patient-Practitioner Relationship – this is the only exception in the bylaws where a relationship between the patient and a practitioner (i.e. physician, nurse practitioner, etc.) does not need to exist before you are authorized to prescribe. If one does exist, then you must provide that practitioner with your PAR.

4.1.5 Implementation – We are awaiting approval of the relevant bylaws by the Minister of Health. Once his approval is given and published in the Saskatchewan Gazette, then the bylaws will come into force. The Saskatchewan Medical Association has asked that this prescribing be implemented in phases beginning with the guidelines that are not controversial. The remaining would be referred to an interdisciplinary advisory committee to address SMA’s concerns. Council will consider this request and then determine our implementation strategy that we will coordinate with the training. Then you will be able to prescribe, but only after having taken the training.

4.1.6 Further information – We will advise you of our implementation strategy when know. In the meantime, for more information on the scope of the guidelines and this prescribing, please refer to the Introduction to minor ailment prescribing guidelines at: