Prescriptive Authority for Saskatchewan Pharmacists

Update #5 - January 4, 2011

1) Prescriptive Authority to be Implemented Soon
We have received confirmation that the Minister of Health has approved our bylaws governing the conditions under which pharmacists may prescribe drugs. However, the bylaws are NOT in effect yet. That will occur when the Minister's approval is published in the Saskatchewan Gazette. Then members who have Level I training may prescribe. As the implementation date remains under government control, we are expecting the Minister will make his announcement during the first quarter of 2011 to confirm when prescriptive authority for pharmacists may begin.

At our December 15th meeting Council reaffirmed that prescriptive authority is part of the pharmacists’ scope of practice. This means that every licensed pharmacist is expected to provide these services. As a result, Council asked that we advise members of our intent to make Level I training a requirement for licensure. While we are uncertain of when that will occur, we strongly encourage all members to be trained. This includes both the Level I training that has been provided, and continues to be available on-line, AND the Minor Ailments Prescribing training that is currently under development. Please watch for Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacists (CPDP) announcements on availability.

Pharmacists do not need Minor Ailments Prescribing training to begin prescribing in the other areas. However, you must take this training when it becomes available to prescribe for minor ailments.

Pharmacists that require training can visit the CPDP website at www.usask.ca/cpdp for registration instructions. We strongly encourage pharmacists who have already been trained to take the on-line course as a refresher and to familiarize yourself with the changes.

To summarize, be prepared!

2) Public Education Campaign Contest
We are planning to launch a campaign to educate the public on your role in prescribing drugs. To help, we want member input into a slogan, motto or tag line that “brands” this role. In other words we want something that is short, easy to remember, and reflects your role as a prescriber upon which we can build more detailed messages. We intend to feature this slogan or brand in every element of the campaign.

You can submit as many ideas as you have to this office by January 14, 2011 via return e-mail to info@saskpharm.ca Subject: Slogan. Pharmacy students will also be asked. Our Public Education Committee will select the best entry from each of the pharmacists and students and each winning entry will be awarded an iPad. Of the two, our Committee will select the one that we will use for the campaign.
Thank you for your interest and we look forward to your submissions.

Happy New Year to all!