



National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities
Association nationale des organismes de réglementation de la pharmacie

NAPRA Notes

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2010 marks NAPRA's 15th anniversary!

It is hard to believe that NAPRA is already set to celebrate its 15th anniversary – but it is true. Founded in 1995 and originally based in Toronto, the Association soon after moved the corporate office to Ottawa in order to be closer to the home of key stakeholders including the federal government. The Association's achievements over the past fifteen years are a testament to the hard work of NAPRA's members, the Board of Directors, and volunteers who served or continue to serve on NAPRA committees.

Looking back on fifteen years, here are some of the achievements that all NAPRA members (past and present) can be proud of:



- created and maintained of the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee and the National Drug Schedules
- created of *Mobility Agreement for Canadian Pharmacists* (formerly the Mutual Recognition Agreement)
- created national model standards of practice, guidelines and competency documents for use by pharmacy regulatory authorities, teaching institutions and many other organizations both nationally and internationally
- allowed indispensable input into related areas of pharmacy with groups such as CCAPP, PEBC, CCCEP
- organized and hosted the International Forum on the Export of Drugs to the United States

NAPRA receives \$3.7 million in funding to help international pharmacy graduates access information for licensure in Canada

The National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) has secured funding of \$3.7M over three and a half years from the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program to establish and maintain a plain language website in addition to developing new tools which will provide International Pharmacy Graduates (IPGs) with a single point of access to information they need to become licensed to practice pharmacy in Canada.

NAPRA will develop a website that will not only provide plain language information, it will also provide access to a tool to help IPGs determine their preparedness and readiness to proceed with a request for licensure to practice in Canada. A second assessment tool will help foreign graduates review their credentials, identify gaps and prepare a learning plan.

The IPG project will assist all provincial and territorial regulatory authorities (PRAs) to streamline and standardize licensing requirements as much as possible and will create a single point of access. It will also contribute to implementing some of the resolutions made by the PRAs which led to the signing of the *Mobility Agreement for Canadian Pharmacists*. In addition, the IPG project is NAPRA's contribution to some of the recommended actions of the Moving Forward Pharmacy Human Resources and the Blueprint initiatives led by the Canadian Pharmacists Association during the past few years.

In recent months, the first phase of the project implementation began including the addition of national office staff and a workplace renovation to accommodate the new personnel. As the project continues, updates will be published in *NAPRA Notes*. For additional information, please contact the NAPRA office.

Foreign qualification recognition – insight into HRSDC’s Pan-Canadian Framework

Executive Director Carole Bouchard, along with John Pugsley of The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC), met with Jonathan Wells, Foreign Credential Recognition Division, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC). The purpose of the meeting was to better understand the goal of the framework and next steps. This proved to be a useful session as a means to better understand the government’s expectations of the professions – pharmacists being one – highlighted in the document.

NABP Symposium 2009 – NAPRA invited to present

Returning for the second year in a row, NAPRA’s Executive Director Carole Bouchard, was asked to be a presenter at the 2009 NABP Symposium *Legalization of Drugs: Is the Time Right for Medical Marijuana?* Specifically, Ms. Bouchard provided an overview of Canada’s regulatory framework for the use of marijuana for medical purposes. A perspective of the PRAs in Canada during the evolution of the framework was provided. Outside of the educational sessions, Ms. Bouchard made use of the opportunity to network with other regulators and industry representatives.

The role of the pharmacist regarding the sale of non-approved marketed health products

In response to the availability of non-approved marketed health products on the Canadian market, NAPRA’s Board of Directors discussed and developed a national position statement to reiterate the requirements of all pharmacists with respect to the sale of these products. As outlined in the federal regulations, all marketed health products for sale in Canada require a market authorization (drugs) or product licence (natural health products or homeopathic products) from Health Canada. The position statement, released in January 2010, highlighted the requirements in the federal regulations as another means for pharmacists to be aware of the regulatory responsibilities.

As part of its ongoing role to monitor developments of any federal regulations including the *Natural Health Product Regulations (NHPR)*, NAPRA sits as a member of the Health Canada’s Natural Health Products-Program Advisory Committee. This Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from the many facets of the natural health product industry including manufacturers, manufacturing associations, retail, and NAPRA to provide a regulatory perspective. Sitting in for NAPRA’s representative Manon Lambert, Michel Caron of the Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec was joined



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by Carole Bouchard, NAPRA's Executive Director, at an in-person meeting in Ottawa in January. Ms. Bouchard met again with the NHP-PAC group in person in March 2010.

NAPRA continues to monitor Health Canada's activities and developments regarding any regulatory frameworks.

CSHP Professional Practice Conference – a crossroads for learning and communication

Once again, the attendees of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) gathered in Toronto for the annual Professional Practice Conference. NAPRA President Dianne Donnan and Executive Director, Carole Bouchard attended the meeting. As usual, there were very interesting professional sessions coupled with a wide range of exhibitors as well as the opportunity to network with colleagues from across the county.

National association of regulators considers opportunity for future cooperation with CLEAR

In recent discussions, the Canadian Network of National Associations of Regulators (CNNAR) brought forward the possibility of reaching out to other international organizations of a similar nature. NAPRA's Executive Director, Carole Bouchard suggested learning more about the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) – an international resource for professional regulation stakeholders. At CNNAR's request, Deanna Williams, Registrar for the Ontario College of Pharmacists and longtime CLEAR member presented an overview of the US-based organization.

Blueprint for Pharmacy moves into next phase

With the publication of the Blueprint for Pharmacy document in 2009 and the creation of an implementation plan in order to move the activities outlined in the document into tangible achievements, the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) is moving into a new phase. In February and March 2010, the Steering Committee, including NAPRA representative Carole Bouchard in an advisory capacity, convened to select a Chair. The group also met for a one-day in-person meeting on March 15 to get acquainted with one another, discuss the terms of reference and indicators of success for the Committee's work. The Steering Committee will continue to play an important role as an oversight group to monitor and facilitate the execution of the Blueprint for Pharmacy. The next meeting is planned for May 2010.

NAPRA invited to CCSA Board Dinner

Carole Bouchard attended the Board of Directors dinner for the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) on March 3. In addition to this evening as an opportunity to meet with colleagues from various governmental and non-governmental groups, it was also an opportunity to listen to the CCSA Chief Executive Officer present on the key developments underway in both Canada and internationally to address the impact of drug and alcohol abuse. He also touched on key priorities for the future, one being pharmaceutical drugs.

National office grows with the addition of new staff members

There are a few new faces in NAPRA's office.

Kathy Vesterfelt joined NAPRA as the Manager, Professional and Regulatory Affairs. Prior to joining NAPRA, Kathy's career path has included practice pharmacy in hospital and community settings, various positions within Health Canada and most recently with the Ontario College of Pharmacists as a Senior Policy Advisor. Kathy's responsibilities include the oversight of the National Drug Schedules/NDSAC and the management of special projects. In addition, Kathy will undertake activities related to the IPG project.

Nathalie Joseph comes to NAPRA with a long career in office administration. As the Administrative Officer for the IPG project, Nathalie will have a key role to ensure the smooth day-to-day operation of the project administration, preparation of stakeholder meetings and materials.

Lucy Doré is not a new name and face to the NAPRA office but she has now taken on a new role. Lucy will serve as the Project Officer for the IPG project. In this capacity, Lucy will undertake responsibilities in the area of the communication and marketing coordination and the web portal.

NAPRA would also like to acknowledge **Janelle Souter**. Janelle, a fourth year pharmacy student from the University of Saskatchewan, worked at NAPRA on a five-week placement as part of her final year of study. While here, Janelle worked on two main research projects; the first relating to the group of substances identified by Health Canada as "ethical"; and the second an update of the "Identifying Natural Health Products Listed in NAPRA's National Drug Schedules" report published in 2006. We wish Janelle every success as she begins her career as a hospital pharmacist in Saskatchewan following the completion of her studies.

Feedback

Let us know what you think! Send us your thoughts on what works well, what can be improved, the type of information you would like to read about in this publication – we are open to all suggestions. Please send your feedback to Lisa Gall, Manager of Communications by e-mail at lgall@napra.ca.