

POLICY STATEMENT

October 2001

The Sale of Needles and Syringes

WHEREAS Health Canada has indicated that the selling of needles and syringes by pharmacists for purposes of prevention of AIDS or other diseases is not illegal.

The Prince Edward Island Pharmacy Board has adopted the following policy:

WHEREAS AIDS is a life-threatening disease with the potential to cause wide-spread infection, and

WHEREAS AIDS can only be spread by unprotected sexual intercourse, blood-to blood contact or from an infected mother to her unborn child, and

WHEREAS the average incubation period of the disease is 7 to 10 years, and

WHEREAS the major spread of the disease in years to come will be among the heterosexual population, and

WHEREAS the proper use of condoms can protect against infection during sexual intercourse, and

WHEREAS the use of clean syringes for drug administration can reduce the risk of acquiring the AIDS virus, and

WHEREAS pharmacies are easily accessible sources for the purchase of both condoms or clean syringes, and

WHEREAS pharmacies can be reliable sources of information about all health issues, especially AIDS,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Prince Edward Island pharmacists should be encouraged to disseminate accurate information about protection against the AIDS virus, to display condoms in a location which will allow easy access without embarrassment for the purchaser, and to sell clean syringes and needles in quantities dictated by their professional judgement for purposes of prevention of AIDS or other diseases.