

Prescriptive Authority for Saskatchewan Pharmacists

Update #1 – October 12, 2010

This is the first in a series of updates and reminders that we will periodically send to members in preparation for and during the implementation of prescriptive authority.

1.1 When?

On March 3, 2010, the Honourable Don McMorris, Minister of Health, announced his intention to approve regulations and bylaws allowing pharmacists to prescribe drugs to become effective early this summer. The regulations authorizing pharmacists to prescribe drugs beyond emergency contraception have been submitted and are awaiting approval.

However, he has yet to approve the SCP bylaws governing the conditions under which pharmacists may prescribe. The approval process involves consultation with stakeholders that ended June 30, 2010 followed by revisions to the bylaws and a second consultation scheduled to end October 18, 2010. The revisions addressed all stakeholder concerns except for concerns expressed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Saskatchewan Medical Association respecting minor ailments prescribing. The revised bylaws include minor ailments prescribing and Council will establish an interdisciplinary committee to address the issues. Thus, it is possible that the Minister could approve the bylaws with or without minor ailments prescribing. We are expecting the Minister to approve one or the other version of the bylaws soon after October 18th to become effective when his approval is published in the Saskatchewan Gazette. Implementation will occur at that time as higher regulations authorizing the pharmacist to prescribe drugs beyond emergency contraception will come into force at the same time. We anticipate that this will all occur before the end of the year. Then members who have received Level I training may begin to prescribe under Level I authority, except for minor ailments. Minor ailments prescribing is delayed because this portion of the bylaws may not be approved and also because planning for the mandatory training is underway but not finalized. We will provide further details on minor ailments and Level II prescribing later.

For complete texts of the regulations and bylaws, please consult the web site as indicated below.

1.2 Level I Training is Mandatory

Council has decided that any member wishing to engage in any of the activities authorized under Level I authority may only do so if you have received Level I training. Those who have not been trained may not undertake any of those authorized activities such as extending refills and providing emergency supplies.

Council has decided to consider making Level I training mandatory as a condition of licensure so that every practising pharmacist will be able to prescribe.

1.3 Additional Level I Training for All Members

There will be no more attendance type training sessions.

For those members who have not taken the Level I training, the on-line course is now available through CPDP and a registration fee applies. As Council recently agreed to consider making this training mandatory as a condition of licensure, you are strongly encouraged to take the training soon.

We highly recommend that members who have already been trained take these on-line sessions as a refresher and to update yourselves on the changes in policies and procedures that have occurred since your training. These sessions are available to you at no charge.

1.4 Further information

These updates, the regulations and bylaws, frequently asked questions and all other resource material are being posted at our homepage at the NAPRA web site at:

<http://napra.ca/pages/Saskatchewan/default.aspx>