



Health Santé
Canada Canada

Therapeutic Products Programme
Tunney's Pasture
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OTTAWA, Ontario
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FAXED

DEC. 4 - 1998

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

98-034483

Barbara Wells, B.Sc Phm.
Executive Director
National Association of Pharmacy Registrars
116 Alberta Street
Suite 1005
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1P 5G3

Dear Ms. Wells:

Re: **NAPRA - Report on the Transfer of Authority to Fill
Prescriptions by Facsimile Transmission - August 1997**

Thank you for taking leadership on this project which, of course, is of great interest to pharmacists who wish to take advantage of modern technology in their professional practice.

I am pleased to advise that we have reviewed the document provided and fully support the guiding principles relating to patient confidentiality, verification of prescription authenticity, validation of prescription accuracy, prevention of diversion, and protection of patient choice.

It appears that the courts would consider prescriptions which have been transmitted by facsimile technology to be valid prescriptions under existing Regulations. However, certain security and verification precautions are indicated to prevent diversion. The Therapeutic Products Programme (TPP) would have no objections should a provincial pharmacy regulatory authority permit the use of facsimile technology in the transmission of prescription authority, providing adequate measures are in place to prevent forgeries and the diversion of pharmaceuticals.

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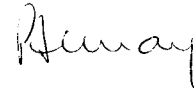
Canada

This applies to all drugs which currently require prescriptions, including those regulated under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and Regulations (also known as "narcotics and controlled drugs").

As the regulator, TPP needs to know what measures are in place to prevent the diversion of controlled substances from legitimate channels. Therefore, where any province adopts regulations recognizing the use of facsimile technology in the transmission of prescription authority, I would appreciate receiving details of pertinent regulations and related compliance programs.

I look forward to continuing to work with NAPRA and provincial pharmacy licensing authorities on issues of mutual interest. We have recently received your related report on "electronic transmission". This will be reviewed by the TPP working group that is currently looking at this issue.

For your information, we plan to inform other associations of health professionals and licensing authorities of this position.



for Dann M. Michols
Director General

cc: Bruce Rowsell
Jean Lambert
Patricia Lemay