

# *The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program Newsletter*

## *October 2005*

*Dear Prescriber,*

*The Prescription Monitoring Program has undergone many changes in the previous months. These changes include new legislation and associated regulations, a redesigned triplicate prescription pad, and implementation of an online real-time adjudication system. These changes will greatly enhance the PMP and help it to better meet its mandate to promote the appropriate use of monitored drugs and the reduction of the abuse or misuse of monitored drugs. PMP is asking for your assistance to streamline processes and help to protect the integrity of the data collected that is used for reporting.*

*Best regards,*

*The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program*

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### Important Reminders about the “New” Triplicate Prescription pads:

#### Part Fills

**A valid part-fill prescription must indicate:**

- the total quantity to be dispensed
  - the part-fill quantity
- the intervals between the part-fills.

For example:

Total Quantity 100 tablets; dispense 25 tabs at intervals of 7 days

**OR**

Total Quantity 100 tablets; dispense 25 tabs at intervals of not less than 7 days

#### Health Card Numbers

**Please legibly record a valid health card number and date of birth on each script;** this would be the same number that is submitted for claim payment.

For example:

- Nova Scotia residents, select NS and indicate the HCN
- RCMP officer, select RCMP and indicate the RCMP ID #
- Canadian Forces member, select CF and indicate the CF ID #
- Out of province patient, select the province and indicate the HCN
- Out of country patient, select “NSG” / indicate “Out Of Country”
- Office use prescription, select “NSOU” / indicate “Office Use”
- For prescribers that work in a hospital setting, please note that hospital generated health card numbers (8000 series numbers) are not valid HCN for the purposes of writing a script.

*Questions or comments?*

*The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program*

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Emergency Pads

**The PMP is no longer issuing blank, emergency prescription pads.** All prescriptions pad are personalized and coded with numbers unique to each prescriber. Please advise the PMP staff when you need to re-order allowing 3-4 days for delivery and order far enough in advance so that you have an adequate supply of triplicate pads on hand at all times.

Old PMP Prescription Pads

**It is important that all Prescribers discontinue using their old pads.** The new pads contain pre-printed data that must be submitted electronically by the pharmacist; the old pads do not contain this information. New pads were sent to all prescribers previously registered with PMP in May & June of 2005. If you have not received new pads, please contact the PMP as soon as possible.

To differentiate between “new” pads and “old” pads, look to the right of the prescriber’s name field, the “new” pads have a “PMP ID #” field - the old pads do not.

The PMP asks that your office destroy any old prescription pads by shredding or destroying the pads in a manner that renders the prescription pads useless. Please notify the PMP of the prescription pad numbers destroyed so that they can be marked as void in our system. Old prescription pads can also be returned to the PMP for destruction. **Please note that at a future date, old pads will no longer be valid.**

Registration with NSPMP

**The new PMP Regulations require that prescribers who prescribe monitored drugs must register with the Program.** Prescribers who do not register with the PMP do not receive PMP prescription forms and therefore cannot prescribe monitored drugs. If a pharmacist electronically submits a prescription for a monitored drug written by a prescriber who is not registered with the PMP, the pharmacist will receive an error message from the PMP that the prescriber is ineligible. Please contact the PMP staff if you would like to register with the Program.

Sharing Pads

**The new PMP Regulations prohibit this.** The computerized PMP system assigns prescription pad numbers to specific prescribers by linking the pad numbers to the prescriber’s PMP identification number. Therefore, a pharmacist will receive an error message from the PMP if they electronically submit a prescription written by a prescriber whose PMP identification number does not match the PMP prescription pad number. **Prescribers cannot share pads with the new on-line computer system.**

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