

# ***The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program Newsletter***

## ***October 2005***

*Dear Pharmacist,*

*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. The information entered in the PMP system from the triplicate prescription copy is used for data analysis and reporting. This information is provided to various stakeholders - such as prescribers who are evaluating a patient's monitored medication history. We strive to maintain data integrity and would appreciate your assistance with the following points.*

*Regards,*

*The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program Staff*

### **1. Part-Fills**

- A valid part fill prescription **must indicate the total quantity to be dispensed, the quantity of each part fill, and the intervals between each part fill.**
- When completing the bottom portion of the triplicate form, please indicate the TOTAL QUANTITY and the TOTAL DAYS SUPPLY in the Qty. and Days fields. For example:  
Ritalin SR 20 mg  
90 Tablets total  
Dispense in lots of 30 Tablets at 30 day intervals  
Enter 90 in the Qty. field and 90 in the Days field.
- If a part fill is cancelled, please notify the PMP so that quantity and days supply can be adjusted in the PMP database.

### **2. Dispensed Quantity Differs From Prescribed Quantity**

- Changes to quantity indicated by prescriber can occur for various reasons including drug plan quantity restrictions, blister packaging, non-availability of prescribed strength, or patient requests. If a quantity change is required please write "Qty Change" in the space by the prescriber's name and indicate total quantity dispensed and total days supply in the QTY and DAYS fields. If the "Qty Change" notation does not appear, PMP staff will be required to call the store and verify the quantity dispensed.

*Questions or comments?*

**(OVER)**

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#### **3. Missing or Illegible Information**

The following pieces of information are the most commonly missing or illegible:

##### **a. Health Card Number, Date of Birth, Patient Name**

Please ensure that the patient's name, HCN, and date of birth are legible **on the 3<sup>rd</sup> copy of the triplicate form.**

We have communicated to prescribers to fill the HCN section in as below:

- Nova Scotia residents, indicating NS and HCN
- RCMP officer, indicating the RCMP ID #
- Canadian Forces member, indicating the CF ID #
- Out of province patient, indicating which province and the HCN
- Out of country patient, indicating "Out Of Country"
- Office use prescription, indicating "Office Use"

##### **b. Days Supply**

Please indicate the days supply as entered in the pharmacy's computer. **The information in the PMP system needs to match the information in the pharmacy system.**

##### **c. Pharmacist's Registration Number**

The new PMP Regulations require that pharmacists register with the PMP in order to fill triplicate prescriptions.

#### **4. Pad Sharing**

The new regulations prohibit the sharing of prescription pads between prescribers. Only the prescriber whose name is printed on the triplicate prescription can write a prescription on that form.

#### **5. Methadone Compounds**

**Please indicate the TOTAL QUANTITY as MG strength.**

For example:

Methadone 80mg daily in Tang x 28 days  
TOTAL QUANTITY to be entered is 2240 mg of methadone  
**NOT** 2800 ml, volume of liquid dispensed

*Questions or comments?*

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