

## Implementation of On-line System Update

To date, 80 percent of NS pharmacies are submitting triplicate prescriptions to the NSPMP electronically. This accounts for approximately 87 percent of all triplicate prescriptions overall. Recently, a resolution was passed by the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Board that requires all pharmacies to submit electronically to the NSPMP by December 2007. The goal of the NSPMP is to work with remaining pharmacies and their vendors to ensure that remaining stores are brought on-line as soon as possible. (See page 2 and 3 for more details.)

## Did You Know...?

### Also in this Issue:

An important memo from the NSPMP Board regarding on-line submission of triplicates

NSPMP's updated Complaints process

An update on old triplicate prescription pads

Mass faxing to NS pharmacies

### Patient Profiles for monitored drugs are available to pharmacists within a few minutes of a request?

Pharmacists can contact the NSPMP by telephone and request a complete history of existing or new patient's prescriptions for monitored drugs. This information can be faxed directly to you within minutes of your call.

### Pharmacies are required to electronically submit prescriptions for long term care clients?

As per the NSPMP regulations, once a pharmacy is submitting triplicates electronically to the NSPMP, they are required to submit long term care prescriptions for monitored drugs. This can be done in lieu of a triplicate prescription form. Please refer to the NSPMP's On-line Claims Submission Guide or contact the NSPMP office directly for more information.

### The NSPMP's On-line Submission Guide is available on the web?

A PDF version is available at <http://www.pans.ns.ca/>. After logging in, go to the "links" section and search "PMP".

The guide is also available in PDF format at <http://nspharmacists.ca/> under the "Prescription Monitoring Program" section



## NSPMP's Board Resolution Regarding On-line System May 2007

The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program initiated a new on-line system in July of 2005. Approximately 80% of all pharmacies in Nova Scotia are now on-line and submitting claims electronically.

The continued existence of 'off-line' pharmacies has provided some individuals with the ability to obtain monitored drugs for the purposes of diversion or abuse. In an effort to fulfill the Program's mandate of promoting the appropriate use of and reducing the abuse of monitored drugs, the NSPMP Board of Directors has passed the attached resolution.

This resolution requires that as of December 1, 2007, all pharmacists and pharmacies will be required to provide prescription information on monitored drugs to the Administrator in electronic format, through the on-line system.

The Board is aware that some situations will occur where a prescription cannot be entered electronically, and a policy will be established for the management of these individual items on an ongoing basis.

Questions about proceeding with implementation of the on-line program should be directed to the NSPMP Office. As well, pharmacists may wish to contact their software vendors for information on initiating the Program within their store.

Sincerely,



Ann Foran  
Manager - Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program



Susan Wedlake  
Vice-Chair - NSPMP Board of Directors  
Registrar - College of Pharmacists

## The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program

### Resolution 2007 -1

### On-Line Data Submission Deadline

**Whereas** the *Prescription Monitoring Act* (the “Act”) provides that the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Board (the “Board”) establish and operate a Prescription Monitoring Program (the “Program”);

**Whereas** the *Prescription Monitoring Regulations* requires a registrant to provide information to the Administrator of the Program as required by the Board;

**Whereas** pursuant to the *Act*, the objects of the Program are to promote the appropriate use of and reduction of the misuse or abuse of monitored drugs;

**Whereas** the provision of information to the Administrator by some pharmacies or pharmacists in paper form and not electronically through the on-line system has resulted in some patients being able to undermine the objects of the Program;

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that, in accordance with the *Regulations*, as of December 1, 2007 pharmacists and pharmacies shall provide information to the Administrator only in electronic form through the on-line system; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Board develop a policy to deal with occasional prescriptions that cannot be processed through the on-line system after December 1, 2007.

**Be It Further Resolved** that any individual pharmacy that considers the requirement to provide information in electronic form through the on-line system by December 1, 2007 causes it undue hardship may apply to the Board for an extension of up to three months to provide information to the Administrator only in electronic form.

*Passed:* April 25, 2007

#360593



Dr. Cameron Little  
NSPMP Board Chair  
Registrar - College of Physicians and Surgeons Nova Scotia



Ms. Susan Wedlake  
NSPMP Board Vice-Chair  
Registrar - Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists



Dr. Bill MacInnis  
NSPMP Board Member  
Registrar - Dental Board of Nova Scotia

## NSPMP's New Complaint Process

The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (NSPMP) is mandated to promote the appropriate use of and reduce the abuse of monitored drugs. Data is collected on all perceptions for monitored drugs, and regular analysis is completed on prescribing patterns and individual use of monitored drugs. In addition to assessing potential incidents of abuse or misuse of these drugs, the NSPMP also works closely with healthcare providers. Our goal is to provide services and information that will assist in optimizing care involving the use of monitored drugs.

The Prescription Monitoring Program Operations Committee (POC) is a committee of the NS Prescription Monitoring Board. Members of this committee represent the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Doctors Nova Scotia, The College of Pharmacists, NSPMP's Medical Consultant and the Dental Board. In addition to providing a peer review of drug utilization inquiries and corresponding prescription data, this committee reviews any complaints brought to the NSPMP.

When cases are being reviewed by the Committee (POC), the Committee may make, but is not limited to the following actions: request more information; terminate the investigation; forward a case to the PMP Medical Consultant; forward the case to the appropriate licensing authority; or forward the matter to the appropriate law enforcement authority.

The NSPMP accepts complaints from individuals regarding the prescribing or practices of a prescriber (physician or dentist), pharmacist, or pharmacy in regards to monitored drugs. These complaints may be anonymous if requested. Complaints to the POC Committee can be made by completing a standard form, or by contacting the NSPMP staff. **All information is confidential and outcomes are not released.**

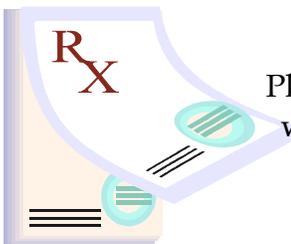
## Alerting NS Community Pharmacies

Recently, the NSPMP has obtained the ability to notify all NS pharmacies via mass faxing. This process has been useful for notification regarding stolen triplicates, new processes, alerts, updates, etc. It is a valuable communication tool to share verified, time sensitive information between all NS community pharmacies. If you would like to know more, please contact the NSPMP office.



## Notice Regarding Old Triplicate Pads

Please note that of August 2007, all remaining triplicates that are of the old style will be voided in the NSPMP system. Prescribers still using these pads will be notified by their licensing authorities.



## Accessing Program Services

Services can be accessed by contacting the NSPMP office:  
**902-496-7123** or by email at [pmp@medavie.bluecross.ca](mailto:pmp@medavie.bluecross.ca)