



Promoting the appropriate use,
and reducing the abuse and misuse, of monitored drugs in Nova Scotia.

Important Information for Prescribers and Pharmacists

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Core Course - Fall 2013

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), in conjunction with Addiction Services across Nova Scotia, is offering an Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) core course in Fall 2013. The online component of this course, which consists of five modules, begins October 30, 2013 with a one day workshop to follow on November 30, 2013.

The course prepares pharmacists, physicians, nurses and counsellors to provide a comprehensive range of services for people with opioid dependence. This course is a requirement of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia to obtain an exemption to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine for opioid dependence in NS.

The ODT course is approved for Mainpro CPD credits from the College of Family Physicians of Canada as well as CEU's from The Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy and The Canadian Addiction Counsellors Certification Federation.

For details pertaining to the eligible Mainpro CPD credits and CEU's, to access the course schedule or to register by the deadline date of October 28, 2013, please visit:

http://www.camh.ca/en/education/about/AZcourses/Pages/odtcore_odt.aspx.

Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use (CCENDU) Drug Alert

In July 2013, CCENDU issued a drug alert pertaining to the use of illicit fentanyl (i.e., produced in clandestine laboratories), rather than diverted prescription-grade fentanyl.

According to the CCENDU alert, illicit fentanyl has appeared for sale on the streets in a number of Canadian communities, as well as the US.

The following is a summary of the information contained in the CCENDU drug alert:

- Illicit fentanyl has been appearing in pill and powder form.
- It has been sold as Oxycontin®, heroin or other substances.
- It can be significantly more toxic than pharmaceutical-grade fentanyl.
- Individuals who are using Oxycontin or other substances, but mistakenly take illicit fentanyl, are at greater risk of an accidental overdose.

The CCENDU alert advises that *"care must be taken when advising substance using populations about the dangers of illicit fentanyl. Advisories should avoid terms that might, indirectly, attract users, such as "strong" or "more powerful." Such terms could inadvertently result in an increase in people seeking out the drug."*

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Register today for
eAccess
www.nspmp.ca

Contact Information

PO Box 2200, Halifax NS B3J 3C6
T: 902.496.7123 or
TF: 1.877.476.7767
F: 902.481.3157
E: pmp@medavie.bluecross.ca



eAccess

Based on generally accepted best practices for limiting the potential for misuse and abuse and/or diversion, the NSPMP recommends that prescribers and pharmacists register for the NSPMP's e-Access and review each patient's NSPMP claims history prior to writing or dispensing new prescriptions. eAccess is an easy to use online web application which provides access to real time claim information which assists prescribers and pharmacists to make informed decisions when prescribing and dispensing monitored drugs.

The registration process for eAccess takes approximately 1 business day to complete. Registration and User Agreement forms can be downloaded from the NSPMP website at <http://www.nspmp.ca/forms.php>. Forms can also be obtained by contacting the Program toll free at 1-877-476-7767 or 902-496-7123 or by email at pmp@medavie.bluecross.ca.

Troubleshooting Tips for Pharmacists

The NSPMP receives a number of calls from pharmacies each day requesting support for claim submission issues. In an effort to support pharmacies to effectively troubleshoot, a number of troubleshooting tips, specific to common claim submission issues, are provided below and on the following page.

Pharmacy staff are also recommended to access the On-Line System Guide as this document provides valuable information for processing monitored drug claims. The On-Line System Guide can be found on the NSPMP website at <http://www.nspmp.ca/guide.php>.

NSPMP staff members are available Monday to Friday between the hours of 8am and 5pm to provide assistance to pharmacy staff.

Verbal Prescription Orders

The NSPMP often receives calls from pharmacists asking if it is acceptable for them to take a verbal order from a prescriber for monitored drugs. In addition, during the course of the NSPMP's Prescription Process Audits, staff will often identify instances where verbal orders have been taken for a monitored drug.



PMP's rule of thumb is that if the change significantly alters the original written duplicate prescription (i.e. different direction, different authorized quantity, etc.), the prescriber should be required to complete a new duplicate prescription that is written in a manner that accurately reflects what the pharmacy is required to dispense.

Please note that pharmacies are not authorized to accept a faxed copy of a duplicate prescription so it will be necessary for an original copy of any new duplicate prescription to be provided to pharmacy staff.

Part-fills

In situations where a prescriber has requested that a medication be dispensed in allotments or part fills, pharmacies must not enter the total quantity and total days supply when entering the first fill of the prescription. Each part-fill is to be entered on-line as it is dispensed. The first fill of a part-fill is received by NSPMP as "N" (new) and all of the following part-fills are received as "R" (refill/part-fill).

New/refill code error

Response code R52 - Pharmacies receive this response code when they have failed to submit the first fill (N – new) of a duplicate prescription to PMP. To resolve this submission error, pharmacies must ensure that the first fill of the prescription is submitted prior to any part-fills. Pharmacies will be required to reverse any part-fill claims in order to submit the first fill claim.

Special authorization #/code error

Response Code R64 - The valid PMP prescription number must be entered in the "special authorization number" field on the claim. This is the PMP prescription number shown on PMP prescription pad. To resolve this submission error, pharmacies must resubmit the claim with the correct PMP prescription number, which is located on the duplicate prescription.

Nova Scotia Generic (NSG) Healthcard Number

The Nova Scotia Generic (NSG) healthcard number is only to be used by pharmacies when processing claims for out of country individuals or for an out of province individual who is unable to produce their provincial healthcard. For Nova Scotia residents, if the provincial healthcard number has not been provided on a duplicate prescription or by the patient, please contact either the prescriber's office or the NSPMP to request this information.



Important note: Always ensure that the correct cardholder identifier (i.e. NS, NB, ON, etc.) is entered in the pharmacy software when submitting claims to avoid defaulting to the NSG healthcard number. A complete listing of all cardholder identifiers can be found in the On-Line System Guide on the PMP website at <http://www.nspmp.ca/guide.php>.

Provincial Drug Information System (DIS) and the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program

In the fall of 2013, the province of Nova Scotia is scheduled to begin implementation of a provincial Drug Information System (DIS). The DIS is designed to capture prescription data for all drugs dispensed in the province of Nova Scotia. The implementation of the DIS will not replace the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program in the province. Claims for monitored drugs dispensed in Nova Scotia will continue to be monitored by the NSPMP.

Upon implementation of the Drug Information System, DIS pharmacies with claim submission questions or concerns will be supported by DIS team members. The NSPMP will continue to have Program staff available to respond to questions related to the prescribing and dispensing of monitored drugs.

In an effort to facilitate a seamless transition to the Drug Information System, PMP in collaboration with the DIS, have drafted the **User Guide for Transition to the Drug Information System**. A copy of this user guide is available on the PMP website at <http://www.nspmp.ca/guide.php>.

For information specific to the Drug Information System, please visit the Department of Health and Wellness website at <http://novascotia.ca/DHW/ehealth/dis>.