



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

Important Information for Prescribers and Pharmacists

Atlantic Pain Conference

The 7th annual Atlantic Pain Conference, presented by Pain Services, Capital District Health Authority, will be held September 26-27, 2014 at the Halifax World Trade & Convention Centre.

This program is designed to provide an update in the field of pain management for family physicians, medical specialists and other health professionals who have an interest in assisting patients suffering with chronic pain.

There will be various guest speakers discussing topics such as;

- Spinal Pain
- Role of Cannabinoids & the new Marijuana Program
- Complimentary & Alternative Therapies
- Spinal Pain Rehabilitation
- Appropriate Prescribing in Pain Management
- Assessment of Pain in Nonverbal Populations
- Labour Analgesia and Health Care Empathy
- What are Temporomandibular Disorders and How Do You Manage it?
- Impact on Families
- Adaptive Equipment and the Critical-Care Pain Observation Tool

Online registration is now available at <http://nsanesthesia.ca/s/apc>. For mail in registration refer to the brochure at the above noted website. Information is also provided on the NSPMP website at <http://www.nspmp.ca/news.php>.

Can More Than One Monitored Drug be written on a Duplicate Prescription?

The only time it is acceptable to prescribe more than one monitored drug on a duplicate prescription is when a required dose of medication is not commercially available so two strengths of the same drug need to be prescribed.

For example: dose required is 70mg of M-Eslon. M-Eslon 70mg is not a commercially available strength so it would be acceptable to prescribe two strengths of M-Eslon to achieve the required dose.

It is not acceptable to prescribe more than one formulation of a monitored drug on one duplicate prescription.

For example, a patient who is prescribed Hydromorph Contin and hydromorphone 4mg would need to be provided with two separate duplicate prescriptions.

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Register today for
eAccess
www.nspmp.ca

Contact Information

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eAccess

Effective June 1, 2014, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia (CPSNS) has made it mandatory for physicians to review NSPMP patient profile information prior to prescribing narcotics and controlled substances in episodic, urgent and emergent care settings as per the "[*Policy Regarding Review of Monitored Drug History Before Prescribing*](#)". The CPSNS further states that it "*encourages physicians to always review the drug profile of all patients when prescribing controlled substances.*"

Utilizing the NSPMP secure online eAccess web application, prescribers and pharmacists can access up to 18 months of a patient's profile information regardless of time of day. To be provided access, prescribers and pharmacists must first register for eAccess which involves the completion of a registration and user agreement form. The registration process takes approximately 1 business day to complete. Once registration is complete, registrants will be issued a unique username and a temporary password, which are sent via two separate emails. This information is for use by the registrant only. The NSPMP does not allow registered users to designate another individual to access patient profile information via eAccess on their behalf.

Registration and user agreement forms can be downloaded from the PMP website at <http://www.nspmp.ca/library/00000224-library.pdf> or by calling the Program toll free at 1-877-476-7767 or 902-496-7123 or by email at pmp@medavie.bluecross.ca.

Methadone Program Monitoring Service

The NSPMP provides a Methadone Program Monitoring Service to methadone clinics/prescribers who prescribe methadone to patients for dependence purposes. This monitoring, conducted on a weekly basis, identifies patients who have obtained other monitored drugs from a non-methadone clinic prescriber during their treatment. MMT prescribers will receive notification from the NSPMP in such cases in the form of a Weekly Methadone Report Summary.

The [College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia \(CPSNS\) Methadone Maintenance Treatment Handbook](#) includes information specific to a prescriber's responsibility to both access NSPMP patient profile information prior to initiating MMT and registering patients in the Program's Methadone Program Monitoring Service.



Section 4, Initial Patient Assessment, Standards #4;

“The MMT physician shall obtain a patient profile for the previous 12 months through the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (NSPMP) and shall register the patient in the NSPMP Methadone Program Monitoring Service.”

Subsection 4.3.1 - The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program;

“Patients may not receive a prescription for methadone from more than one source at a time. For this reason, prior to initiating treatment, the MMT physician must contact NSPMP.”

“A current patient profile must be obtained and the patient must be enrolled in the NSPMP Methadone Program Monitoring Service. A current patient profile can be obtained either through the NSPMP eAccess web application or by contacting NSPMP directly. This service will provide the physician with a patient drug profile prior to initiating treatment. Also, NSPMP conducts weekly monitoring of patient profiles and advises physicians if the patient has obtained a monitored drug from other prescribers during the course of their treatment.”

To register a patient for Methadone Program Monitoring, prescribers must complete a Methadone Maintenance Treatment Patient Profile/Enrollment/Discharge Form which can be downloaded from the NSPMP website at <http://www.nspmp.ca/library/00000289-library.pdf> or by contacting the Program toll free at 1-877-476-7767 or 902-496-7123, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8am and 5pm.

Verbal Orders

The NSPMP has been receiving an increasing number of calls from pharmacies enquiring if they are authorized to accept/request verbal orders for sections of duplicate prescriptions. Federally there are regulations that apply to this topic. Information specific to these regulations can be found in the Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS), under *Appendix 1: Narcotic, Controlled Drugs, Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances*.

The Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists (NSCP) website includes an electronic copy of a reference document titled [Prescription Regulations Summary](#) which outlines the regulations specific to monitored drugs. Pharmacists are encouraged to refer to this document or the CPS when questions arise concerning verbal orders.

The document can be accessed at:

<http://nspharmacists.ca/resources/documents/PrescriptionRegulationsSummary.pdf>.