



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

## Important Information for Pharmacists and Prescribers

### Compounded Testosterone

When the *Prescription Monitoring Regulations* were introduced in Nova Scotia there were certain drugs which were exempted from the requirement to be monitored by the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (NSPMP). One exemption related to compounded testosterone. The Regulations stated that "testosterone, when dispensed as a compound for topical application for local effect" was exempt.

The exemption has consistently been interpreted as applying to all prescriptions for compounded testosterone, regardless of intended use. However, when this exemption was established it was only intended to apply to testosterone compounded for vaginal use. Therefore the majority of prescriptions for compounded testosterone should be prescribed on a duplicate prescription pad and submitted to PMP.

#### For DIS Pharmacies:

There are currently no exemptions under the new Drug Information System Prescription Monitoring Regulations.

The new regulations define monitored drugs as:

*"Any drug that is a controlled drug under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) and is listed in the Schedules to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) or any successor legislation is designated as being subject to the Program."*

Prescriptions for compounded testosterone **must** be submitted to the DIS for monitoring by the NSPMP.

#### For POS Pharmacies:

For pharmacies that submit monitored drug prescriptions online through the Point of Sale (POS) system, compounded testosterone must be submitted to PMP for monitoring if prescribed for any purpose other than vaginal use.

#### For all Pharmacies:

Duplicate prescriptions written for compounded testosterone must be submitted using OPINIONS PIN **99099963**.

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## New CPSNS Campaign

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia (CPSNS) has launched an awareness campaign aimed at encouraging patients and physicians to explore pain management alternatives. The goal of the campaign is to support a broader conversation between patients and physicians when dealing with pain management.

The campaign, through the use of ads, posters and billboards, together with a dedicated website [www.righttoolforthejob.ca](http://www.righttoolforthejob.ca), seeks to support a physician-patient conversation about effective pain management options best suited for each individual's situation.

The campaign begins September 29, 2014 and will continue through to the end of December 2014.

For more information please review the attached document or visit the CPSNS [website](#).

## Registration Information Update Requirements

In an effort to ensure that provider information is up-to-date and accurate, the Program would like to remind prescribers, pharmacists and pharmacies of the requirement to notify PMP of any changes to registration information. Section 10 of the *Prescription Monitoring Regulations*, "Notifying Administrator of changes to registrant's information" states;

- 10 (1) The licensing authority of a prescriber, pharmacist or pharmacy who has lost the privilege of prescribing or dispensing monitored drugs must notify the Administrator of the loss of privilege in writing within 1 business day of the date that the prescriber, pharmacist or pharmacy lost the privilege.
- (2) A registrant must notify the Administrator in writing of a change in their street or mailing address no later than 10 business days before the change of address comes into effect.
- (3) A pharmacy that closes must notify the Administrator in writing no later than 10 business days before the date of closure.
- (4) A pharmacy that changes ownership must notify the Administrator in writing no later than 10 business days before the date the change of ownership takes effect and must reapply for registration with the Program.

Failure to notify PMP of registration information changes may cause delays in prescribers receiving duplicate prescription pad orders, claim submission errors, etc.



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## New Prescriber Group – Nurse Practitioners

It is expected that on November 1, 2014, Nurse Practitioners will become a recognized prescriber group with the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program. Nurse Practitioners will be authorized to prescribe monitored drugs in the same manner and Physicians and Dentists and will be subject to following the Prescription Monitoring Program Regulations and the Drug Information System Prescription Monitoring Regulations.

Nurse Practitioners will be required to prescribe monitored drugs on a duplicate prescription pad. Pharmacies that receive prescriptions written by a Nurse Practitioner will be required to follow the PMP Regulations for dispensing monitored drugs.