



# COLLEGE NOTES

*The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Prince Edward Island*



*Fall/Spring 2014*

*Dear Colleagues:*

The College office staff is pleased to issue the Spring edition of our *College Notes* as a means of communication with our members. This Newsletter provides a brief summary on some topics that we feel are important.

*Our Council members for 2013/2014*

- ❖ Dr. Gary McLean, President
- ❖ Dr. Chris Stewart, Vice President
- ❖ Dr. Anne Drysdale, Acting Registrar
- ❖ Dr. Mireille Lecours, appointed by Government
- ❖ Dr. Andrew MacLeod
- ❖ Dr. Santhosh Lakshmi
- ❖ Dr. Jean-Yves Dubois
- ❖ Mr. Neil Robinson, Lay member appointed by Government
- ❖ Ms. Barb Currie, Lay member appointed by Government

We are pleased to advise you that Ms. Barb Currie was recently reappointed to Council for another 3 year term. Thank-you Barb for all your time and contribution!!

We are sad to advise that Dr. Mireille Lecours recently resigned from Council as the physician appointed by Government. We are awaiting to hear who will be appointed in her place. Thank-you Mireille for all your contribution to Council!

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Phone: (902) 566-3861

Fax: (902) 566-3986

Email: [mmacdonald@cpspei.ca](mailto:mmacdonald@cpspei.ca)

Website: [www.cpspei.ca](http://www.cpspei.ca)

*If you are interested in becoming a Council member, or willing to sit on a Committee, please contact the College office for more information.*

*The Office Staff:*

- ❖ Dr. Cyril Moyses, Registrar
- ❖ Dr. Geraldine Johnston, Deputy Registrar
- ❖ Melissa MacDonald, Office Manager
- ❖ Sherry Glass, Administration Support

### **Website Development**

The website/database development is ongoing. Our member log-in area is not ready, but hopefully will be sometime in the near future as we continue to enter all the physician data into the databank. We have hired a part-time office support person, Ms. Carmen Grinton, for the summer to help with office duties so data entry can proceed. We are continuing to enter data which is very time consuming for the office staff as information is checked and confirmed before data input. **This emphasizes the importance of correctly and completely filling out your annual Renewal forms.**

We continue to add new and revised Policies to the website once approved by Council. Please regularly check our website ([www.cpspei.ca](http://www.cpspei.ca)). Since our last newsletter we have added:

- *Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Dependency* (revised), Jan 27, 2014
- *Methadone Maintenance Prescription Fax Form* (PEI Pharmacy Board), endorsed Jan, 2013
- *Distribution of Information to the Public, Publication, Suspension*, Jan 27, 2014
- *Reimbursement of Annual Fees* (revised) Nov, 2013
- *Language Proficiency* (revised), May 26, 2014
- *Marijuana Prescribing* (revised), May 26, 2014 - This Policy also includes the *Physician Reporting Form for the Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulation*, approved May 26, 2014. Physicians issuing medical documents for marijuana **must** complete this form and return it to the college office.

It is very important that you read these policies, in particular the one on distribution of information. When there is a finding of Professional Misconduct, incapacity or unfitness, the physician's name and the finding will be placed on the website. If a physician's license is altered, suspended or revoked during or as a result of the discipline process, this information is also posted to the website. The reason is only made public if it is the result of a discipline hearing. The Policy also outlines who is directly contacted with this information. If a physician voluntarily withdraws from practice, it is the responsibility of the physician to make the public aware within 7 days. The Policy outlines who is to be contacted. **Please read this important Policy.**

We are currently working on a new Policy on Supervision. When it has been approved, it will be posted to the website.

We are presently working on a Physician-Patient Contract for Marijuana Prescribing that will be available as a tool for members to use in their practice. It will not be mandatory to use this particular form, but it will be expected that those issuing medical documents for marijuana will have a similar contract with their patients, kept in the patients' medical records. The contract we are developing should appear on the website in the near future. We will advise members by email when this happens.

### **Legislative Issues**

#### **1. Present *Medical Act* (1988) and *Regulations* (May 1, 2014)**

- New definition: US Medical Schools to include Osteopathic Schools accredited by the American Osteopathic Association, effective January 1, 2014.
- Under Section XI: Professional Misconduct two new categories have been added ( March, 2014):
  - (aa) Failure to cooperate with the Council, College, its committees, and its Officers or employees,
  - (bb) Failure to provide such information to the College of Physicians and Surgeons as required by Council.

#### **2. "*The Pharmacy Act*" & "*Adaptation and Therapeutic Substitution Regulations*" & the "*Standards of Practice: Prescription Adaptation, Renewals and Therapeutic Substitution for Pharmacists*"**

"*The Pharmacy Act*" passed earlier this year, now enables pharmacists to adapt or make therapeutic substitutions to prescriptions if and when they deem appropriate to do so. A pharmacist can now adapt or make a therapeutic substitution if the pharmacist believes it is in the best interest of the patient.

To "*adapt a prescription*" means to modify the dose, formulation, regimen or duration of a drug that has been prescribed by a prescriber for a patient.

To "*make a therapeutic substitution*" means to give a prescription for a patient for a drug that contains chemically different active ingredients than a drug originally prescribed by a prescriber for the patient, but that is expected to do a similar therapeutic effect.

If the physician is of the opinion that "*No Therapeutic Substitution*" should be given, it should be clearly wrote on the prescription pad.

For more information or a copy of the new Act or Regulations please visit their website at [pepharmacists.ca](http://pepharmacists.ca).

There are new Regulations for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians drafted under the Regulated Health Professions Act. This allows a new expanded scope of practice for pharmacists. In March, 2014, we were asked to provide comment on these proposed new Regulations and have done so. Ultimately, patient safety was our main concern.

### ***3. Proposed Personal Health Information Legislation***

The Department of Health and Wellness is developing new legislation regarding personal health information/medical records. It is in the consultative phase at the present time. Physicians are custodians of this type of information and as such, this new legislation will apply to us. Items in the proposed legislation include-timely access to the records (30 days), examining and copying the record, requesting to correct the health information (by the patient), disclosure without consent(eg. to a statutory body). We will keep you posted as we learn more.

### ***4. New Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations (MMPR)***

As you are aware, Health Canada's new Regulations for access to Medical Marijuana came into force in June, 2013. Physicians will be asked to provide a medical document to those patients requesting to use medical marijuana. There is no need for a second physician to sign this document. A patient will then take his/her document to a distributor to obtain their marijuana. The document is good for 1 year and there is a maximum amount of marijuana allowed of 5 gm/day or 150 gm/ month. Please check the Health Canada website for more detailed information.

Presently there has been an appeal launched by those presently growing their own marijuana, (as they will no longer be allowed to grow their own and the cost will increase for them); this appeal is expected to be heard sometime later this summer.

By default physicians have been made the gate keepers to access medical marijuana. Physicians, however, are not obligated to provide these documents. All physicians are advised to make themselves aware of the positions of the CMA, CMPA and as well as the Policy on Medical Marijuana adopted by our College.

## **Professional Issues / Education**

### **1. Methadone and Buprenorphine Prescribing**

In January, 2014, Council voted to remove the restrictive Policy on Buprenorphine Prescribing for Analgesia. Council also updated the Policy on Prescribing Buprenorphine for Opioid Dependency. Please check this new policy on the website. Physicians are expected to complete the Suboxone online course available at [www.suboxonecme.ca](http://www.suboxonecme.ca) prior to prescribing Suboxone.

Just a reminder to Methadone prescribers, the Opioid Dependency Treatment Core Course by CAMH (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) is the usual course taken and is available several times a year, including in Ontario and in Nova Scotia.

## **2. Royal College Clarification**

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada have contacted us to clarify the Royal College's policy for the "Health Care Professional" category within MOC Program. All Royal College certified specialists can elect to either:

- join (or re-join) the Royal College as a Fellow, entitling them to use FRCPC or FRCSC designation and participate in other Royal College services and programs including the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program; OR
- participate in the Royal College's Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program as a Health Care Professional. This option does not entitle them to use the FRCPC or FRCSC designation or participate in other Royal College benefits.

For **both** of the above options, the annual fee is the same as the annual Fellowship dues are \$811.00 for 2013/2014. Specialists and others who are **not** Royal College certified may join MOC Program as Health Care Professionals, at a reduced fee of \$590.00 for 2013/2014. They are not entitled to use the FRCPC or FRCSC designation or participate in other Royal College benefits other than the MOC Program. Hopefully this helps clarify the eligibility requirements and fee structures for Royal College certified versus non-certified physicians wishing to participate in the MOC Program. If you require more information, please contact Christine James, Associate Director, Membership Services & Programs at [cjames@royalcollege.ca](mailto:cjames@royalcollege.ca) or 1-800-668-3740 ext.234.

## **3. CFPC Alternate Route to Certification**

The deadline for registration for the Alternate Route to Certification in Family Medicine for those who have not yet certified, and wish to do so, has been extended to December 31, 2015. Family physicians trained and certified in certain jurisdictions outside of Canada may have their training and certification recognized by the CFPC and may also be eligible for an Alternate Route to Certification. They are advised to contact the CFPC regarding this recognition and certification.

## **4. Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter**

Publications re Adverse reactions to pharmaceuticals can be found at:  
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/bulletin/index-eng.php>

## **5. CPPD Newsletter**

In March, 2014, we were advised that Volume No.13 of the Annual Canada Pension Plan Disability Newsletter was published. All persons receiving a CPPD benefit receive this publication.

Physicians are invited to visit the Employment and Social development Canada on-line information for health care professionals called Medical Reports, Forms and Information for Health care Professionals at <http://www.esdc.gc/eng/disability/benefits/medical.shtml>

This webpage provides information to:

- help healthcare professionals quickly access up-to-date facts and information on the CPPD Program as well as other disability programs; and

- guide users to services, tax credits, and medical forms that need to be completed in order to access benefits.

## **Extended Relationships / News**

### ***1. FMRAC (Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada)***

The FMRAC AGM is being held in Saskatoon this year from June 7-9, 2014. All office staff will be away to attend this event and other national meetings held in conjunction with it. The office will be closed from Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and will reopen on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### ***2. Medical Council of Canada***

The MCC launched the new “physiciansapply.ca” system May 31, 2013. Candidates are now able to log into one single (physiciansapply.ca) account where they will be able to (1) apply to additional Medical Regulatory Authorities for registration in the coming 12-24 months (2) submit requests for source verification of their documents (3) share medical credentials stored in the MCC Physician Credentials Repository, (4) apply for exams and view examination results and (5) request translation of documents through a secure and trustworthy channel. Stakeholders (MRAs) will be able to view a candidate’s credentials through a new portal, with the candidate's consent.

***For more information on this project and its background, visit [www.amr-dim.ca](http://www.amr-dim.ca)***

The National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) is developing a practice ready assessment (PRA) for foreign-trained doctors. This pathway will be consistent and comparable across Canada and would be available to doctors seeking a provisional license to practice medicine. The NAC-OSCE, designed to assess IMG’s clinical skills prior to entry into residency, is now being offered twice a year at seven sites across the country.

The MCC is also working with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to perform credential verification services for international physicians seeking to immigrate to Canada under the Federal Skilled Worker Class Program.

Dr. Johnston has been reappointed to the MCC for another term, for 2014-2018.

**3. IAMRA (*International Association of Medical regulatory Authorities*)**

IAMRA developed a Statement of Intent on Proactive Information Sharing in October, 2012. It was developed to encourage MRAs to share information about physicians whose practice may put patients at risk. This information sharing is becoming more relevant as physicians increasingly move around the world. In January, 2014, the Council voted to endorse this process. It is still in the developmental stage- developing tools and guidelines to assist regulators in sharing disciplinary information.

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*Please look after your own health & well-being.*

*Healthy & happy physicians look after their patients competently and with compassion.*

We at the College office hope you all enjoy your nice hot summer after the very cold snowy winter we had!!

**Please remember the Office will be closed**

**June 5, 2014 - June 10, 2014.**

**The College office has a mail slot on the front door for anyone who wishes to drop off any mail.**