

DECEMBER 2017

COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held at the College offices on December 11th, 2017.

COUNCIL APPROVES PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PHARMACY ACT REGULATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENT

This past September, Council was presented with draft amendments to the quality assurance and registration regulations. These amendments were aimed at implementing an Intern Pharmacy Technician class of registration, incorporating pharmacy technicians into the quality assurance regulations, eliminating unnecessary steps in registration, and shifting from an hourly reporting of practice to a self-declaration of competency in conjunction with practice assessments. Council subsequently directed the College to move forward with a 60-day open consultation on the proposed amendments.

A total of 41 submissions were received from pharmacy professionals and the public including a submission from the Ontario Pharmacists Association. The majority of the feedback indicated overall support for the regulation amendments and no further changes were recommended to Council. At its December 2017 meeting, Council received the final report from staff and approved the proposed regulations for submission to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for consideration.

COUNCIL ADOPTS MODEL STANDARDS FOR PHARMACY COMPOUNDING OF NON-STERILE PREPARATIONS

In the fall of 2016, the College posted on its public website draft Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-Sterile Preparations, which were developed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), for consultation. Model Standards represent the minimum requirements that must be met regardless of practice site and against which performance can be measured.

Responses were received from a number of stakeholder groups including pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy organizations. The submissions were generally supportive with suggestions to aid clarity; the College provided this feedback to NAPRA's National Advisory Committee on Pharmacy Practice. In all, nation-wide consultation elicited over 800 comments, many of which were extremely detailed, leading NAPRA to take a new approach with the Standards.

The release of the Standards will now be accompanied by a Guidance document which will provide pharmacists and technicians who compound non-sterile preparations with the details necessary to evaluate their practice, develop

service-related procedures, and implement appropriate quality controls for both patients and compounding personnel. NAPRA is expected to finalize and publish the Standards and the Guidance document in early 2018.

Following Council's approval to adopt the Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-Sterile Preparations at its December 2017 meeting, the College will now work toward establishing an appropriate implementation date and will develop a comprehensive communication and education plan for members and stakeholders. More information on this issue will be available in the coming months.

GOVERNANCE

Council welcomed Mr. Azeem Khan (Public Member) who was recently appointed to College Council for a period of three years. Mr. Khan will be serving on the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC) and the Discipline Committee. The recent addition of several public members to Council is very much appreciated as it allows for more public participation on panels of college adjudicatory committees.

At this meeting, Council also considered and supported the Executive Committee's



recommendation to create a task force which will examine the legal and practical requirements of instituting a competency screening process for members seeking election to College Council.

Screening for competence is consistent with action being considered by the Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence (AGRE), which is developing a proposed Eligibility and Competency-Based Committee Appointment Framework which will set out a process for how a person who might be interested in being considered for appointment to a College statutory committee would travel through the application and selection journey. The framework, which is part of AGRE's governance project, aligns with government priorities and the changes set out in the *Protecting Patients Act, 2017*.

The intent and overall objectives contained in changes set out in the *Protecting Patients Act, 2017* align with the College's own values and commitment to transparency and accountability. The College supports actions that provide better patient protection and strengthen its ability to maintain society's trust in our regulatory role to serve and protect the public.

Council also welcomed representatives from the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) who were invited to address Council about their own governance renewal journey in the pursuit of their public interest mandate.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

As the 2017 year draws to a close, College Council is now looking to the development of a new multi-year strategic plan. A planning group consisting of Council members and senior College staff has now been struck to move this work forward, with a goal of establishing and launching a new strategic plan later in 2018.

CEO AND REGISTRAR'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Nancy Lum-Wilson, CEO and Registrar, provided Council members with a comprehensive update on the College's progress in advancing its strategic priorities. Key highlights included the development of several new collaborative initiatives with health system partners such as Local Health Integration Networks, the announcement of Pharmapod as the selected vendor for our medication safety continuous quality assurance program,

the initial steps being made to advance our Opioid Strategy, and the success of the most recent regional meetings held earlier this fall. Also included in the CEO and Registrar Report was an update from Todd Leach, Manager of Communications, who provided Council with a brief overview of the communications plan for 2018 which will increase its focus on public- and stakeholder-facing communication, education and engagement activities in an effort to build greater awareness and confidence in the College's public interest mandate.

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS:

- Sunday March 25, 2018
- Monday June 11, 2018
- Monday September 17 & Tuesday September 18, 2018
- Monday December 10, 2018

For more information respecting Council meetings, please contact Ms. Ushma Rajdev, Council and Executive Liaison at urajdev@ocpinfo.com. 