

# UPDATE ON DPRA CHANGES

## **UPDATE: AMENDMENTS TO THE DRUG & PHARMACIES REGULATION ACT AWAITING MINISTRY APPROVAL**

The College will soon have the authority to license and inspect pharmacies within public and private hospitals, and eventually within other institutional pharmacy locations as well. As a result, the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act* (DPRA) required updating.

Proposed changes to the DPRA include adding provisions for hospital pharmacies and making a shift to an outcomes-based approach. The overall goal is to move specific expectations from the regulation into standards, policies, guidelines or processes. This will help the regulation to stay current with changes in practice for a longer period of time.

The proposed changes to the regulation were circulated for public consultation from March 10 to May 10, 2015. College staff also collected feedback from stakeholders in the hospital and community pharmacy environments, and from the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care. Overall, there was great support for the proposed changes and for the new outcomes-based approach — which were approved by Council at their June 2015 meeting. The proposed revisions are currently being considered by government and

are expected to be proclaimed in late 2015/early 2016.

Upon enactment, practice expectations will not change. The most significant change will be in where the details for expectations are located. The new outcomes-based approach will see specific details moved from the regulation into standards, policies, guidelines or processes.

Over time, the College will work to update these supplementary documents to keep up with changes in practice. To aid in this process, a “Standard, Policy and Guideline Consultation Framework” was developed to help direct the consultation process and ensure all stakeholders have the opportunity to provide feedback where appropriate. The Framework outlines several principles that will be applied to help the College to decide if consultation is required.

These principles generally relate to the effect the new or revised standard, policy or guideline could have on public safety, practice, operations or inter-professional collaboration

Presently, the current DPRA regulations are still in effect.

For more information about the changes to the DPRA and OCP’s future oversight of hospital pharmacies, please visit the Key Initiatives page on the OCP website. 