

DECEMBER 2016 COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held at the College offices on December 12th, 2016.

COUNCIL DEBATES MEDICATION SAFETY

Following a recent tragic incident linked to a compounded medication error, the College reviewed how medication incident reporting is addressed in practice and what resources are available to improve and strengthen existing measures. This review also included the protocols and reporting requirements of other provincial regulatory authorities, specifically Nova Scotia's SafetyNET-RX and Saskatchewan's COMPASS CQI programs that enable community pharmacies to anonymously report medication incidents to a third party (such as the Institute for Safe Medications Practices [ISMP] Canada). The objective of this approach, which includes analysis of factors contributing to the error, is to ensure that all practitioners learn from these incidents and review and enhance their policies and procedures to reduce the likelihood of recurrence thereby improving patient safety.

In a recent letter to the College, Minister Hoskins stated "Medication safety in Ontario is a priority for my ministry, and given recent tragic events that have been reported in the Ontario media, the proposed work of the ISMP and OCP is timely. I am very supportive of initiatives

like this to improve transparency and safety in pharmacies".

Although the College continuously reminds practitioners of their responsibility to appropriately manage medication incidents in their practice through broad communications, and as part of discussions during regular pharmacy practice assessments in hospitals and community pharmacies, it does not currently mandate the reporting of medication errors to an external body.

In discussing this issue, Council was unanimous in its support of requiring such reporting. The expectation is that aggregate analyses of medication incidents will be received by the College for targeted practice improvement initiatives. To this end, a Task Force will be established to fully examine this subject and to develop a model for consultation during January and February 2017. The model will be presented to Council for approval at its meeting in March 2017.

NAPRA'S DRAFT MODEL STANDARDS FOR PHARMACY COMPOUNDING OF NON STERILE PREPARATIONS

NAPRA (National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities) developed the draft Model Standards

for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-Sterile Preparations which the College posted for [consultation](#) between October 20 and November 17, 2016. These standards were based on those that are already in place in Quebec, which are in turn based on General Chapter <795> of the United States Pharmacopeia – National Formulary (USP – NF). Responses were received from a number of stakeholder groups including pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy organizations, the submissions generally being supportive and providing suggestions to aid clarity. Feedback will be submitted to NAPRA, who will review submissions from across the country and determine what changes to make, if any. When NAPRA has completed work on the standards, Council will consider their adoption as well as timing of implementation.

It is the College's intention that, wherever possible, national standards will be adopted. Most recently, Council approved the implementation by January 2019 of the Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-hazardous Sterile Preparations and Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Hazardous Sterile Preparations.



LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

On December 7, the government introduced the [Medical Assistance in Dying Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016](#). The Act consists of a series of amendments that would provide more clarity on medical assistance in dying for patients, families and health care providers. It would ensure that appropriate coroner oversight of medical assistance in dying situations will continue.

Legislation has also been introduced that would, if passed, further protect patients in Ontario and keep them healthy, including strengthening and reinforcing Ontario's zero tolerance policy on sexual abuse of patients by any regulated health professional. [Bill 87, Protecting Patients Act, 2016](#) includes legislative amendments that would:

- Clarify the time period after the end of a patient-provider relationship;
- Expand the list of acts of sexual abuse that will result in the

mandatory revocation of a regulated health professional's license;

- Remove the ability of a regulated health professional to continue to practice on patients of a specific gender after an allegation or finding of sexual abuse;
- Increase access to patient therapy and counselling as soon as a complaint of sexual abuse by a regulated health professional is filed;
- *Ensure that all relevant information about regulated health professionals' current and past conduct is available to the public in an easy-to-access and transparent way;
- Improve colleges' complaints, investigations and discipline processes.

*In anticipation, the College commenced work and has already implemented changes to the public register that support the transparency initiative. More information on these legislative initiatives will be communicated as it becomes available.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday March 20, 2017

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