

JUNE 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held at the College offices on June 15, 2015.

COUNCIL APPROVES PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DPRA REGULATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENT

The passing of Bill 21: *Safeguarding Health Care Integrity Act, 2014* extends the College's authority to license and inspect pharmacies within public and private hospitals, as well as future authority over institutional pharmacy locations. As a result, the current regulation to the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act*, which only addresses community pharmacy practice, requires amendments.

The amended regulation adds provisions for hospital pharmacies and proposes an outcomes-based approach to the language, aiming to improve the relevance of the regulatory framework over time. By removing specific expectations from the regulation and moving these into standards, policies, guidelines and processes, the College will be able to respond to changes in practice and public expectations in a more timely manner.

At its meeting in March, Council approved that the proposed regulation be circulated for public and member feedback. In addition, College staff met with major stakeholders from the hospital and community pharmacy sectors, and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

There was support for the outcomes-based approach to the regulation, leaving specifics to supplemental documents such as standards, policies and guidelines that can be

amended easily as practice evolves. Several stakeholders asked for clarification on how these supplemental documents would evolve over time — including the ability to provide feedback on new or changing expectations.

Recognizing these concerns, a "*Standard, Policy and Guideline Consultation Framework*" has been created to ensure a principle-based approach for stakeholder consultation. In addition, the supplemental documents — which capture the intent of what was removed from the regulation as a result of the revision — were created to confirm that the College's expectations will remain the same both pre and post proclamation. Following proclamation, as proposed changes are brought forward, the consultation process will be invoked to collect stakeholder feedback.

The next step in the process, given Council's approval of the proposed regulation at this meeting, is for the College to submit the proposed regulation to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for their final consideration and ultimate proclamation. Until proclamation, which will likely take several months, the current DPRA regulation remains in effect.

Additionally, as already noted, with the exception of the new authority to license and inspect hospital pharmacies, the net result of the proposed DPRA regulation changes with the corresponding supplemental documents is that expectations of practice will not change when the proposed regulations are proclaimed and enacted into law.



With respect to the pending authority for hospital pharmacy oversight, the College is currently conducting baseline assessments of all Ontario hospital pharmacies, which are expected to be complete by the end of 2015. By-law amendments incorporating hospital pharmacy oversight (fees and filing of information) will be drafted and brought forward to Council for approval for public consultation at the September meeting. Final approvals, reflective of feedback received, are expected in December, 2015.

[Read more information about the DPRA initiative here.](#)


POLICY ON FAX TRANSMISSION OF PRESCRIPTIONS REVISED

Council reviewed and approved revisions to the [policy on Fax Transmission of Prescriptions](#) which incorporates updates and clarifies various provisions related to facsimile transmission of prescriptions. The review of the Faxed Prescriptions Policy was prompted by a scheduled five year review as well as the need to align with the position statement on the Authenticity of Prescriptions using Unique Identifiers for Prescribers published in July 2013.

CODE OF ETHICS TASK FORCE — UPDATE

This Task Force was established in December 2014 with a mandate to review and update the current Code of Ethics so that it more appropriately addresses current practice and better enables pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to apply it in practice. Council heard a presentation from the project consultant, noting that the Task Force has now held a series of meetings to work through the initial draft documents and has held focus groups and working sessions with stakeholders to receive feedback.

Final draft documents will be brought to the September 2015 Council meeting for approval for posting for a 60-day public consultation. Following consideration of feedback received during the public consultation, the Task Force anticipates finalizing the Code of Ethics documents for final approval by Council at its meeting in December 2015.

[Read more about the Code of Ethics initiative here.](#) 

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS:

To support planning for various College and program activities, Council agreed to set a meeting schedule for the next two years. Future Council meetings will be held as follows:

2015

Thurs. Sept. 17 and Fri. Sept. 18
Mon. Dec. 7

2016

Tues. March 29
Mon. June 13
Mon. Sept. 19 and Tues. Sept. 20
Mon. Dec. 12

2017

Mon. March 20
Mon. June 12
Mon. Sept. 18 and Tues. Sept. 19
Mon. Dec. 11

Council meetings are open to the public, and are held at the College: 483 Huron Street, Toronto, ON, M5R 2R4.

If you plan to attend, or for more information, please contact Ms. Ushma Rajdev, Council and Executive Liaison at urajdev@ocpinfo.com