

JUNE 2017

COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held at the College offices on June 12th, 2017.

NEW PUBLIC MEMBER APPOINTED TO COUNCIL

Council welcomed Ms. Christine Henderson who was recently appointed to College Council for a period of three years. Ms. Henderson will serve on the Discipline and the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committees of the College.

CONTINUOUS QUALITY ASSURANCE (CQA) PROGRAM FOR MEDICATION SAFETY APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Council received an update on the outcome of the public consultation on the CQA for Medication Safety Program – which received broad support from pharmacy professionals, stakeholders and members of the public – and the recommendations related to the implementation of this important patient safety initiative. Council expressed its unanimous support for the program to move forward.

Implementation will be in stages, beginning with approximately 100 community pharmacies this fall. Learnings will inform further roll out, eventually expanding to include all community pharmacies in the province by the end of 2018.

A comprehensive education and communication plan is being developed to support the successful roll out of the program. More details will be available within the coming weeks.

CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

Council discussed the issue of cannabis and what role the profession will play while governments at both the federal and provincial level establish the framework for legalization. Regulatory expert Mr. Richard Steinecke was invited to address Council on the conflict of interest provisions of the Governance Manual before Council engaged in the discussion on this issue.

Council first reviewed the position statement developed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) on the role of

pharmacy practitioners in the distribution of cannabis for medical and non-medical purposes. Council endorsed the fundamental points contained in the statement including those aimed at preserving the integrity of the healthcare system through regulatory safeguards. NAPRA anticipates finalizing this statement at its meeting later this fall.

Council then considered the development of a formal position on distribution within Ontario consistent with the College's public protection mandate. Those members who declared a real or perceived conflict excused themselves from the meeting for the duration of this discussion. Although there was general consensus around the table that the College should make a statement on distribution of cannabis for medical use, there was agreement that more information was needed in order to make an informed decision on the direction that the statement should take. Accordingly, information will be gathered and this issue will be brought to Council for further discussion at its meeting in September.

LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE

Protecting Patients Act 2017

This new legislation (formerly known as Bill 87) was introduced by the Ontario government to further protect patients by strengthening and reinforcing Ontario's zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse of patients by any regulated health professional. The Bill, which includes a schedule to amend the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA), received Royal Assent on May 30th.

Former College Registrar Deanna Williams has been engaged by the Ministry to undertake the work relating to recommendations of the Sexual Abuse Task Force. It is anticipated that extensive consultations will be held prior to the development of regulations. The College looks forward to working collaboratively with the Ministry on this matter.



Since the *Protecting Patients Act, 2017*, requires the amendment of multiple statutes, the College asked for, and was successful in obtaining, changes to the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act, 1990 (DPRA)*, to enable implementation of the proposed registration and quality assurance regulations as well as to permit the interim suspension of certificates of accreditation of pharmacies where imminent risk of patient harm is identified. This latter provision will mirror the process followed for interim orders relating to members. The College appreciates the All Party support for these amendments, which were accepted and passed with Bill 87 on May 30th.

Governance

The *Protecting Patients Act* also includes amendments that will increase powers of the Minister to make regulations controlling all aspects of the structure of College statutory committees. It is anticipated that the Minister will consult with all colleges before any regulations are made.

In anticipation of these changes, the Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence (AGRE) recently held a Governance Roundtable. One of the key best practices that has received significant interest amongst the colleges is that the selection of members serving on Council and Committees should be based on competency (i.e. knowledge, skills and attitude). At this June meeting, Council endorsed the recommendation that, going forward, applications for service on College committees (i.e. Non Council Committee Members) will be screened to assess competency before being considered for appointment. This information is posted on our website.

Furthermore, to strengthen its governance processes, Council members will participate in a year end

assessment to evaluate how Council performs as a group, as well as individually. The results of the evaluation will assist Council in understanding and recognizing what is working well and identifying areas for improvement as it advances the College’s mandate to serve and protect the public interest.

MAiD UPDATE

Council was also updated on the passage of Bill 84 — Ontario’s *Medical Assistance in Dying Statute Law Amendment Act*. The Bill, which came into force on May 10, 2017, aligns with the federal MAiD legislation and addresses areas relevant to MAiD that fall under provincial jurisdiction. The legislation provides greater clarity and legal protection for healthcare providers (including institutions and clinicians) as well as patients navigating this care option. The legislation also establishes a new role for the coroner in overseeing medically assisted deaths.

A provincial Care Co-ordination Service, a referral service for MAiD, was put in place on May 31. Pharmacists who are unable or unwilling to dispense drugs for the purposes of MAiD can now contact the care coordination service to make a referral. Patients can also contact the service directly.

The College’s [guidance document](#) was developed last year to assist pharmacy professionals to comply with legal obligations and professional expectations with respect to MAiD, including effective referral. Given the recent passage of Bill 84 and the experience the province now has in providing MAiD, the College will be reviewing and updating this guidance material to identify how we can provide further clarity and support to pharmacy professionals.



PHARMACY ACT – PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGULATION

Amendments to the Professional Misconduct regulation, originally approved by Council in 2013, (which addressed the addition of a new class of registrants, the expanded scope of practice, and the expectation that members will exercise professional judgement in choosing to deliver services and/or referring patients to another health professional as needed) came into force on May 5, 2017.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE STRATEGY

As reported at the March Council meeting, the College has been developing a strategy to address the underutilization and integration of pharmacy technicians, particularly in community practice. Pharmacy technicians play an important role in enabling pharmacists to maximize their clinical role as medication therapy experts. However, pharmacists have not achieved this objective despite the regulation of technicians and additional scope for pharmacists. It therefore became clear that a broader strategy was needed to include initiatives that would optimize the scope of practice of both professions.

At this meeting, Council received a presentation on an integrated Scope of Practice Strategy. The Strategy includes the following elements, which were endorsed by Council:

1. Create an Advisory Committee (to inform, support, align and identify partnerships with stakeholders);
2. Define best practice models (and the value proposition) and create a community of best practice to help facilitate growth;

3. Identify barriers and facilitators impacting utilization of pharmacy technicians to optimize pharmacist scope;
4. Establish an education and training agenda for entry and continuing education to enhance professional engagement for both professions; and
5. Develop quality indicators to measure the impact of collaborative practice models on clinical pharmacy services and patient outcomes.

Regular progress updates will be provided to Council as the Strategy is implemented.

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017:

- Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 September, 2017
- Monday 11 December, 2017

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

LIVE TWEETING AT COUNCIL

As part of our commitment to transparency and a broader integrated communications strategy for pharmacy professionals and the public, the College is now live-tweeting Council meetings. Check out our [Twitter account](#) for the tweets from the June Council meeting and be sure to check in with us for our next meeting in September. 📺