

DECEMBER 2018 COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held on December 10th, 2018.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR MODEL STANDARDS OF PHARMACY COMPOUNDING OF NON-STERILE PREPARATIONS ADOPTED

In 2017 Council approved the adoption of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) *Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-Sterile Preparations*. These Standards will come into effect in each province/territory once they have been adopted or adapted by the respective provincial/territorial pharmacy regulatory authorities (PRAs).

At its December 2018 meeting, Council discussed, and subsequently approved, moving forward with a national multi-phase implementation plan for these Standards that would allow for an opportunity to leverage resources and apply a consistent approach across the country. Timelines for implementation of the Standards are as follows:

- Phase 1 – Assessing Risks and Gaps Date: January 1, 2020
- Phase 2 – Personnel Training and Quality Assurance Date: July 1, 2020
- Phase 3 – Facilities and Equipment Date: January 1, 2021

The College will develop and implement an education and communication plan to support the implementation in Ontario. In the meantime, the College has already directed pharmacy professionals to begin to identify their knowledge needs and assess gaps between the Standards and their current practice and compounding environment. Please visit the Key Initiatives section of the website for further details.

COUNCIL APPROVES BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND 2019 FEES

In September 2018, Council approved for circulation bylaw amendments that align the public register bylaws with requirements following the proclamation of the *Protecting Patients Act 2017*, enable fee changes proposed in the 2019 Operational Budget and prepare for the future approval of new Quality Assurance and Registration regulations that will remove the student class for pharmacists and introduce an intern class for pharmacy technicians.

The fee changes proposed will enable the College to deliver on operational imperatives that advance the vision, mission and strategic priorities in the newly created Strategic Plan.

These are outlined in the operational plan and budget approved by Council in September, and are publicly available online in the September Council Meeting materials. Among other things, these priorities include the roll-out of the Medication Safety Program, our response to the increasing complexity and volume of complaints, reports and investigations, and the development of a comprehensive and formal data strategy that will improve our ability to report on and demonstrate regulatory performance and make evidence-informed decisions.

At its December 2018 meeting, Council considered the feedback received through the consultation and discussed the need to move forward with the fee increases to adequately fund the College's activities to fulfill its public-protection mandate and fiduciary responsibilities. Council subsequently approved the bylaw amendments, including the fee changes for 2019, which will be effective January 1, 2019.

Following Council's approval of the bylaw amendments and fees, and in consideration of the feedback received during the consultation, the College will continue to rigorously examine work processes to find efficiencies while strengthening its ability to act on

its mandate. It will also examine cost recovery options in cases of misconduct findings, consider alternative ways of communicating information about the College's finances and fiscal stewardship, and better inform registrants about the College's regulatory role versus that of professional bodies or associations.

Please refer to the news item on our website regarding Council's approval of bylaw amendments and fee changes for more information.

COLLEGE TO DEVELOP DISCIPLINE COST RECOVERY POLICY

While the College does, in most cases, seek costs from members found guilty of professional or proprietary misconduct, the actual costs incurred by the College related to such proceedings are significantly higher than what is ordered by the Discipline Committee to be recovered. The College's current approach to cost awards is based on precedents and can vary depending on the details of the case.

To increase the proportion of discipline costs that are recovered from subjects of disciplinary processes and to decrease the financial burden on the rest of the profession, College staff proposed developing a policy that would formalize the criteria and manner in which cost awards are sought when allegations of professional or propriety misconduct are proven. Council accepted the recommendation and directed staff to draft such an operational policy and report final recommendations to Council at its next meeting.

GOVERNANCE RENEWAL PARTNERSHIP TO MOVE FORWARD

At its December 2018 meeting, Council considered a recommendation to join other Advisory Group for Regulatory Excellence (AGRE) colleges in developing options for legislative changes to support the government in modernizing governance that considers provincial, national and international trends and best practices in health regulation. This includes the adoption of a governance renewal framework aimed at reducing the size and adjusting the composition of Council, separation of Council and statutory committees, and supporting competency-based Council appointments.

Council agreed to support the collaboration with AGRE and approved the governance reform framework and principles. Please see the Council materials for December 2018 for more information.

An update on the progress of governance reform is expected at the next Council meeting.

COUNCIL APPROVES AN OPIOID POLICY FOR PHARMACY

Last year, the College developed an Opioid Strategy to address relevant areas of practice while considering the health and social factors that are related to opioid use disorder. One of the initiatives identified within the Strategy was the development of an Opioid Policy to outline the College's expectations for pharmacy professionals regarding opioid therapy.

In September 2018, a draft Opioid Policy was circulated for open consultation before being brought to Council for final review and approval. Based on the analysis of the feedback received through the consultation, revisions to the policy were made and presented to Council, which approved the amended policy at its December 2018 meeting.

The revised policy has now been posted to the Practice Policies and Guidelines section of our website. Further information about the policy will be broadly communicated over the coming weeks and months.

COUNCIL SUPPORTS EXPLORING A PROVINCIAL PHARMACY SAFETY INITIATIVE WITH THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Council welcomed a presentation by Mr. Barry Horrobin of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) who outlined the opportunity to engage with the College and explore options for a pharmacy safety initiative aimed at helping to curb the incidence and impact of robberies and thefts in pharmacies. Such crimes are often committed by individuals in search of opioids, which are then frequently used for trafficking. Efforts to reduce diversion of these drugs through theft from pharmacies would be aligned with the harm reduction component of the College's Opioid Strategy.

Following the presentation and after considering staff recommendations, Council agreed that the College should engage with the OACP for the purpose of exploring the most appropriate options to collaborate in a provincial pharmacy safety initiative. College staff will now identify next steps including reviewing and analyzing the potential benefits of a province-wide initiative and consider options

for implementation. A progress update is expected to be shared at an upcoming Council meeting.

COUNCIL CONSIDERS POTENTIAL CONCERNS RELATED TO PREFERRED PROVIDER NETWORKS

Council discussed the matter of Preferred Provider Networks (PPNs) as it relates to the College's regulatory mandate. Please see the briefing note available in the Council meeting materials online for details.

Although the College does not have legislative or regulatory jurisdiction to restrict the use of PPNs and has not been presented with any evidence that would cause it to conclude that PPNs are in violation of any regulations or the Code of Ethics, the College would have concerns should any established or emerging business model restrict, prevent or create new barriers to pharmacies or pharmacy professionals from being able to act on their professional obligations.

Council subsequently directed the Registrar to formally communicate its concerns about the impact of

closed preferred provider networks (PPNs) on patient well-being and suggest government encourage employers and unions to support *open* PPN models. Communication to government about the impact on patients, and the potential to enhance access to care through an open PPN model, would be aligned with the College's mandate to serve the public interest and improve patients' well-being.

In the meantime, the College continues to remind registrants that they are expected to practice in accordance with the Standards of Practice and to ensure that continuity of care, access to care and patient safety is not compromised, regardless of whether there are multiple providers involved in the care of a patient.

COUNCIL SUPPORTS RENAMING THE COLLEGE TO BETTER REFLECT ITS OVERSIGHT ROLE

Council passed a motion to formally express to government Council's desire to change the name of the College to the Ontario College of Pharmacy

to more accurately reflect its mandate of regulating pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies in the public interest. It is recognized that for a new name to take effect, the provincial government must approve the name and amendments would need to be made to various pieces of provincial legislation. As this process can take some time and subject to government approval, no timeline has been established.

COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2019:

- March 25, 2019
- June 17, 2019
- Sept. 16 - Sept. 17, 2019
- Dec. 09, 2019

Council meetings are open to the public, and are held at the College: 483 Huron Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2R4. Highlights are tweeted throughout the meeting. If you plan to attend, or for more information, please contact Stephenie Luciani at sluciani@ocpinfo.com 