



The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

200 TACHE AVENUE • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R2H 1A7
TELEPHONE: (204) 233-1411 • FAX: (204) 237-3468 • EMAIL: info@mpha.mb.ca

November 20th, 2009

Dear Pharmacist:

In the last few weeks we have seen H1N1 Influenza activity across the country and within this province rise dramatically. Now, more so than ever before, it is important for pharmacists in Manitoba to ensure that pandemic plans are in place in order to respond to increasing patient care needs in the coming weeks.

To assist, the MPhA has developed the *H1N1 Pandemic Preparedness Resource Kit*. The purpose of this resource kit is to serve as a tool detailing the activities and execution of a comprehensive pandemic preparedness plan for pharmacies. The resource kit and the *Pandemic Preparedness Action List for Pharmacy Managers in Manitoba* it contains will self-assess the readiness of the pharmacy, and the people employed therein, to rise to the challenge of meeting patient care needs in the community they serve during these difficult times.

The *Emergency Continued Care Prescriptions (ECCP)* and the *Temporary Pharmacy Closure in a Emergency, Pandemic or Disaster* documents are new. However, these documents have been adapted from existing documents to specifically address emergency response during times of a pandemic or disaster. The ECCP document provides clear direction enabling pharmacists to meet the needs of the patient in a disaster, but does not replace the professional judgement that should be exercised during emergency.

The document entitled “*Duty to Care in an Emergency, Disaster or Pandemic*” is also new. It was developed jointly with the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons and the College of Registered Nurses. Notwithstanding the application of the duty to care document might be better applied to those professions, it does have some application for pharmacists. In essence the document clarifies the duty of a health care professional to respond in times of an emergency, when called to do so. The duty is qualified by the obligation of the employer, regulator or public health authority to provide the appropriate resources to support a safe environment, by minimizing the short and long term risks to the health care professional.

We hope that you find the *H1N1 Pandemic Preparedness Resource Kit* helpful and should you have any questions, please contact the Registrar at the MPhA office.

Yours truly,

Randall Stephanchew
President

RS/slf