

SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS

Revised Summary of the Prescription Review Program (Formerly Triplicate Prescription Program)

Revisions to the bylaws of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan replace the Triplicate Prescription Program with the Prescription Review Program and revise the Program's requirements. It continues as a partnership between this College, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan and the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan, who will also similarly amend their bylaws. The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association has been added as a partner in anticipation that Registered Nurse (Nurse Practitioners) will be granted prescribing privileges under the federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. The complete text of this new bylaw is attached, and the Program requirements are summarized as follows:

- 1) The list of drugs covered by the Program is expanded to include all amphetamines (rather than just dextroamphetamine), anabolic steroids, all barbiturates (rather than just butalbital), benzodiazepines and chloral hydrate;
- 2) Prescribers are no longer required to write prescriptions for any of these drugs on the special triplicate (or duplicate) form*;
- 3) While under federal law many of these drugs can be prescribed verbally, the written prescription requirement continues for all drugs under new Program, including those that have been added;
- 4) "A statement that the prescription is only valid for three days" has been deleted from bylaw 40(3) of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and is no longer required on prescriptions. This means that the 3 day rule is eliminated and pharmacists may fill prescriptions at any time subject to professional judgment;
- 5) The prescriber must include on the prescription:
 - a) The patient's date of birth;
 - b) The patient's address;
 - c) The total quantity of medication prescribed, both numerically and in written form;
 - d) the patient's health services number; and,
 - e) the prescriber's name and address
- 6) Prescribers may order part-fills, but must specify the total quantity, the amount to be dispensed each fill, and the time interval between fills;
- 7) Prescribers may issue refills as permitted under federal law. To summarize, prescription refills are NOT permitted for any Narcotic, but are permitted under the Program when issued in writing for:
 - a) Controlled Drugs Level I and II, including Preparations, if the prescriber has specified the number, and frequency or interval between, refills,
 - b) Benzodiazepines, if the prescriber has specified the number of refills and less than one year has elapsed since the date the prescription was issued. If the prescriber also specifies the interval between refills, the pharmacist may not dispense the refill until the interval has expired.
 - c) Chloral hydrate if the prescriber has specified the number of refills.
- 8) The Registrar's office of the College of Physicians and Surgeons is authorized to collect and use the information gathered under the Program for the purposes of the Program (i.e. to generate "alert" and "explain" letters to physicians) and may disclose dispensing information to us.
- 9) While the one prescription per form rule is eliminated, prescribers are encouraged to write only one drug per prescription.
- 10) All other requirements of the former Triplicate Prescription Program are retained. In particular for drugs monitored under the Program:
 - a) All prescriptions for Saskatchewan residents must be transmitted to the Drug Plan for capture and/or adjudication;
 - b) The Program does not apply to orders issued in licensed special-care homes; and,

- c) Prescriptions issued at hospital emergency or outpatient department are subject to the Program requirements.

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists continues to expect member cooperation with prescribers to ensure the success of the Program.

* This also means that the patient's signature on the prescription is eliminated, but members may ask for it at your discretion.

Bylaw 40 is rescinded and the following substituted in its place:

40.

The Prescription Review Program

- (1) *Panel of Monitored Drugs - The prescription review program shall apply to all dosage forms of the following drugs, except where indicated otherwise:*

ACETAMINOPHEN WITH CODEINE - in all dosage forms except those containing 8 mg or less of codeine
ACETYLSALICYLIC ACID (ASA) WITH CODEINE - in all dosage forms except those containing 8 mg or less of codeine
AMPHETAMINES - in all dosage forms
ANABOLIC STEROIDS
ANILERIDINE - in all dosage forms
BARBITUATES
BENZODIAZEPINES – in all doses and forms
BUTALBITAL - in all dosage forms
BUTALBITAL WITH CODEINE - in all dosage forms
BUTORPHANOL
CHLORAL HYDRATE
COCAINE - in all dosage forms
CODEINE - as the single active ingredient, or in combination with other active ingredients, in all dosage forms except those containing 20 mg per 30 ml or less of codeine in liquid for oral administration
DIETHYLPROPION - in all dosage forms
FENTANYL - in all dosage forms
HYDROCODONE - DIHYDROCODEINONE - in all dosage forms
HYDROMORPHONE - DIPHRYDROMORPHONE - in all dosage forms
LEVORPHANOL - in all dosage forms
MEPERIDINE - PETHIDINE - in all dosage forms
METHADONE - in all dosage forms
METHYLPHENIDATE - in all dosage forms
MORPHINE - in all dosage forms
NORMETHANDONE-P-HYDROXYEPHEDRINE - in all dosage forms
OXYCODONE - as the single active ingredient, or in combination with other active ingredients in all dosage forms
PANTOPON - in all dosage forms
PENTAZOCINE - in all dosage forms
PHENTERMINE - in all dosage forms
PROPOXYPHENE - in all dosage forms

- (2) *Prescriptions for drugs covered by the Prescription Review Program shall be issued and dispensed according to the policies and procedures agreed to and amended from time to time by the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association and the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists.*

- (3) *In order to prescribe a drug to which the prescription review program applies, physicians shall complete a written prescription which meets federal and provincial legal requirements and includes the following:*
- a) The patient's date of birth;*
 - b) The patient's address;*
 - c) The total quantity of medication prescribed, both numerically and in written form;*
 - d) the patient's health services number; and,*
 - e) the prescriber's name and address.*

- (4) *Physicians shall only prescribe part-fills of medications to which the prescription review program applies if the following information is specified in the prescription:*
- a) *The total quantity;*
 - b) *The amount to be dispensed each time; and*
 - c) *The time interval between fills.*
- (5) *The office of the Registrar may gather and analyze information pertaining to the prescribing of medications to which the prescription review program applies in Saskatchewan for the purpose of limiting the inappropriate prescribing and inappropriate use of such drugs. In order to fulfill that role, the office of the Registrar may, among other activities:*
- a) *generally, provide education to physicians in order to encourage appropriate prescribing practices by physicians registered by the College;*
 - b) *alert physicians to possible inappropriate use of medications to which the prescription review program applies by patients to whom they have prescribed such drugs;*
 - c) *alert physicians to possible inappropriate prescribing of medications to which the prescription review program applies;*
 - d) *make recommendations to a physician with respect to the physician's prescribing of medications to which the prescription review program applies;*
 - e) *require physicians to provide explanations for their prescribing of medications to which the prescription review program applies. In making requests for explanations, the office of the Registrar may require the physician to provide information about the patient, the reasons for prescribing to the patient, and any knowledge which the physician may have about other narcotics or controlled drugs received by the patient;*
 - f) *cause information, concerns or opinions of general application to the profession to be communicated to the physicians registered by the College without identifying the particular physician to whom such information relates;*
 - g) *provide information gathered in connection with the Prescription Review Program to another professional regulatory organization including, but not limited to, the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists and the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association where the information gathered is relevant to the regulatory responsibilities of that regulatory organization.*
- (6) *Physicians shall respond to such requests for explanation, as described in paragraph 5(e) above, from the office of the Registrar within 14 days of receipt of such a request for information.*
- (7) *The Registrar, Deputy Registrar, or Prescription Review Program Supervisor may extend the deadline for reply at their discretion, upon receipt of a written request for extension from the physician.*
- (8) *All physicians who receive such a request for information will comply, to the best of their ability, fully and accurately with such request for information.*
- (9) *Failure to comply with paragraphs 40(5)(e), 40(6) and 40(8) above is unbecoming, improper, unprofessional or discreditable conduct.*

April 9, 2006