



## Implementation of On-line System Update

To date, 80 percent of NS pharmacies are submitting triplicate prescriptions to the NSPMP electronically. This accounts for approximately 87 percent of all triplicate prescriptions overall. Recently, a resolution was passed by the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Board that requires all pharmacies to submit electronically to the NSPMP by December 2007. The goal of the NSPMP is to work with remaining pharmacies and their vendors to ensure that remaining stores are brought on-line as soon as possible. (See page 2 for more details.)

### Also in this Issue:

An important memo from the NSPMP Board regarding on-line submission of triplicates

NSPMP's updated Complaints process

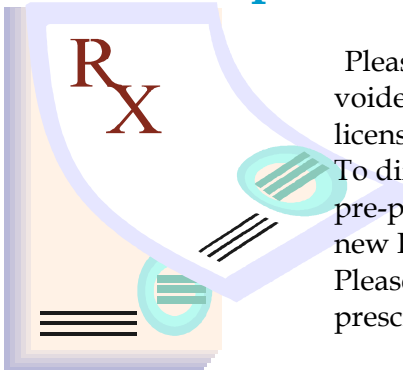
Mass faxing to NS pharmacies

## Did You Know...?

**Patient Profiles for monitored drugs are available to prescribers within a few minutes of a request?**

Prescribers can contact the NSPMP by telephone and request a complete history of existing or new patient's prescriptions for monitored drugs. This information can be faxed directly to your office within minutes of your call.

## Important Notice Regarding Old Triplicate Pads



Please note that of August 2007, all remaining triplicates that are of the old style will be voided in the NSPMP system. Prescribers still using these pads will be notified by their licensing authorities.

To differentiate between the 'new' and 'old' pads, look to the right of the prescriber's pre-printed name - the old pads have a license number whereas the new pads have the new PMP identification number.

Please contact the NSPMP for more information or if you require new triplicate prescription pads. New pads can be provided within 2 to 3 business days.

## NSPMP's Board Resolution Regarding On-line System May 2007

The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program initiated a new on-line system in July of 2005. Approximately 80% of all pharmacies in Nova Scotia are now on-line and submitting claims electronically.

The continued existence of 'off-line' pharmacies has provided some individuals with the ability to obtain monitored drugs for the purposes of diversion or abuse. In an effort to fulfill the Program's mandate of promoting the appropriate use of and reducing the abuse of monitored drugs, the NSPMP Board of Directors has passed the attached resolution.

This resolution requires that as of December 1, 2007, all pharmacists and pharmacies will be required to provide prescription information on monitored drugs to the Administrator in electronic format, through the on-line system.

The Board is aware that some situations will occur where a prescription cannot be entered electronically, and a policy will be established for the management of these individual items on an ongoing basis.

Questions about proceeding with implementation of the on-line program should be directed to the NSPMP Office. As well, pharmacists may wish to contact their software vendors for information on initiating the Program within their store.

Sincerely,



Ann Foran  
Manager - Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program



Susan Wedlake  
Vice-Chair - NSPMP Board of Directors  
Registrar - College of Pharmacists

## NSPMP's New Complaint Process

The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (NSPMP) is mandated to promote the appropriate use of and reduce the abuse of monitored drugs. Data is collected on all perceptions for monitored drugs, and regular analysis is completed on prescribing patterns and individual use of monitored drugs. In addition to assessing potential incidents of abuse or misuse of these drugs, the NSPMP also works closely with healthcare providers. Our goal is to provide services and information that will assist in optimizing care involving the use of monitored drugs.

The Prescription Monitoring Program Operations Committee (POC) is a committee of the NS Prescription Monitoring Board. Members of this committee represent the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Doctors Nova Scotia, The College of Pharmacists, NSPMP's Medical Consultant and the Dental Board. In addition to providing a peer review of drug utilization inquiries and corresponding prescription data, this committee reviews any complaints brought to the NSPMP.

When cases are being reviewed by the Committee (POC), the Committee may make, but is not limited to the following actions: request more information; terminate the investigation; forward a case to the PMP Medical Consultant; forward the case to the appropriate licensing authority; or forward the matter to the appropriate law enforcement authority.

The NSPMP accepts complaints from individuals regarding the prescribing or practices of a prescriber (physician or dentist), pharmacist, or pharmacy in regards to monitored drugs. These complaints may be anonymous if requested. Complaints to the POC Committee can be made by completing a standard form, or by contacting the NSPMP staff. **All information is confidential and outcomes are not released.**

## Alerting NS Community Pharmacies

Recently, the NSPMP has obtained the ability to notify all NS pharmacies via mass faxing. This process has been useful for notification regarding stolen triplicates, new processes, alerts, updates, etc. It is a valuable communication tool to share verified, time sensitive information between all NS community pharmacies. If you would like to know more, please contact the NSPMP office.



## Accessing Program Services

Services can be accessed by contacting the NSPMP office:  
**902-496-7123** or by email at [pmp@medavie.bluecross.ca](mailto:pmp@medavie.bluecross.ca)