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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS
Member organization of National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA)

The Island Capsule

Edition 4, Volume 14

The Island Capsule is a publication of the PEI College of Pharmacists and is forwarded to every registrant of the College on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.

Valsartan Recall

Health Canada released a Recall and Alert on July 9, 2018 warning that several drugs containing valsartan were being recalled due to contamination with a potential carcinogen N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA). More information on the recall can be found on the [Health Canada website](#).

Pharmacists are reminded that they have the authority, under S.10 of the [Practice of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technician Regulations](#), to make a therapeutic substitution on a prescription

- (a) If the prescription is still valid and is not expired and there are still refills remaining;*
- (b) the pharmacist believes that it is in the best interests of the patient to adapt the prescription or make the therapeutic substitution, as the case may be, in accordance with:*
 - (i) applicable standards of practice,*
 - (ii) the code of ethics established or adopted by the Council, and*
 - (iii) any applicable practice directives issued by the College for the purposes of this section;*
- (c) the pharmacist discusses with the patient or representative the nature of, and reasons for, the proposed adaptation or therapeutic substitution, as the case may be;*
- (d) the pharmacist advises the patient or representative of the relative prices of the drug specified in the prescription and the drug as the pharmacist proposes to adapt it or the drug the pharmacist proposes to substitute, as the case may be; and*
- (e) after complying with clauses (c) and (d), the pharmacist obtains the consent of the patient or representative to the proposed adaptation or therapeutic substitution, as the case may be.*

Pharmacists are in a position to assist patients through this recall by utilizing the tools at their disposal and practicing within the [Standards of Practice](#) and considering the [Code of Ethics](#).

Provincial Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee–Message RE: *Clostridium Difficile*

"Recently published Clinical Practice Guidelines for *Clostridium difficile* Infection in Adults and Children: 2017 Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) state that either vancomycin (or fidaxomicin) is now recommended over metronidazole for an initial episode of ***Clostridium difficile*** infection (CDI). Since 2000, additional randomized, placebo-controlled trials have shown that clinical cure rates are higher for oral vancomycin than for metronidazole. Metronidazole may be considered if access to vancomycin or fidaxomicin is limited, for an initial episode of nonsevere CDI only.

The dosage for an initial episode is vancomycin 125 mg orally 4 times per day for 10 days (extension of the treatment duration to 14 days should be considered if severe disease). The Health PEI *Clostridium difficile* Infection Treatment Guidelines will be updated in the coming months to reflect this change. All recurrent episodes of CDI should be treated as previous, with oral vancomycin or fidaxomicin in various dosing regimens.

Oral vancomycin capsules were recently reviewed and approved by the Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics Committee (PD&T) for use in community for an initial episode of C. difficile. All provincial drugs plans will now cover this drug as an open benefit for this indication."

Professional Liability Insurance

Pharmacists practicing in direct patient care, pharmacy technicians, students and interns are required to hold [personal professional liability insurance](#) as part of registration and ensure that proof of insurance has been provided to the PEI College of Pharmacists. Upon expiration of an insurance policy, members must upload a new policy certificate in their member profile. Members purchasing insurance through the PEI Pharmacists Association are not required to upload a certificate as the College receives notification of insurance from the Association.

Please review your member profile and ensure that your Insurance expiry date on you member home page is current. If not, please upload an updated insurance policy certificate.

Important Dates

PEI Jurisprudence Exam

The PEI College of Pharmacists has posted the jurisprudence exam sittings for 2018. They are as follows:

October 22, 2018 9:30-11:30 am

December 10, 2018 9:30-11:30 am

Additional dates may be added to accommodate pharmacy assistants completing the transition pathway in time for the December 2018 registration deadline.

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