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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 17

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.

EpiPen® Shortage

On July 30, 2018, [Health Canada](#) and [Pfizer](#) Canada announced that the shortage of EpiPen® autoinjectors (0.3 mg/0.3 ml) at pharmacies in Canada is expected to worsen during the month of August. There are currently no alternative epinephrine autoinjectors available in Canada.

EpiPen® and EpiPen Jr® auto-injectors are used to deliver an emergency treatment of epinephrine to patients who are at risk or have a history of life-threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis).

Advice for the Patient

Patients in possession of an EpiPen® (0.3 mg/0.3 mL) or EpiPen® Jr auto-injector (0.15 mg/0.15) should note that these products expire on the last day of the month indicated on the package (e.g. products with an August expiry date do not expire until August 31).

Patients experiencing an anaphylactic reaction should use expired EpiPen® auto-injectors if no other EpiPen® or epinephrine format is available. After using an expired EpiPen®, patients or their caregivers should contact 9-1-1 immediately.

Other Forms of Epinephrine

In cases where an EpiPen® cannot be obtained as a result of the shortage, providing ampoules or vials of epinephrine and syringes together with training on preparing the syringe and administration is an alternative pharmacists could consider.

As with all medications, the pharmacist is responsible for ensuring a drug is appropriate for the patient, and providing consultation on proper use. This includes directions for use and administration.

At this time, and due to potential safety concerns, the College does not recommend the compounding of a substitute product by pharmacies.

MedSask has prepared a [communication](#) for pharmacists who may be requested to provide an anaphylaxis kit for patients.

Prescription Requirements

While EpiPen® does not require a prescription (Schedule II), ampoules and vials do require a prescription (Schedule I). Therefore:

- If a patient requests EpiPen® and does NOT have a prescription, they will need to obtain a prescription from a physician or nurse practitioner.
- If a patient has an existing prescription or brings in a new prescription for EpiPen®, pharmacists can provide the patient with ampoules or vials of epinephrine if an EpiPen® is unavailable.

National Pharmacare Online Consultation

The Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare (the Council) is leading a national consultation on how to implement affordable national pharmacare for Canadians and their families, employers and governments.

Share your thoughts and ideas on what a national drug plan could look like. There are a number of ways to participate. You may review the [Discussion Paper](#) which outlines some of the key issues and provide a written submission via [email](#) or [mail](#). We also encourage you to participate in the online discussion forum below. As well, you can also complete the online questionnaire

[Take the Survey](#)

College Seeks Nominations for Pharmacist Position on Council

The Council of the PEI College of Pharmacists is seeking nominations for a pharmacist position on Council. Pharmacists in good standing that are interested in running for the Council position are asked to complete a [Council Nomination Form](#) and submit to the PEI College of Pharmacists office by Friday August 31, 2018 at 4:00 pm.

About the College...

- The College operates under the leadership and stewardship of its Council. Council's primary role is

to ensure that the interests of the public are protected and maintained.

- Members of Council include 7 elected pharmacists, 1 elected pharmacy technician and 4 members of the public who are appointed by government.
- Council is the policy-making group and board of directors for the College. The College's administrative staff is responsible for carrying out these policies and administering the Regulated Health Professions Act, the Pharmacy Act and associated regulations. The College is required to fulfill the role of a regulatory college established in this legislation. All Council decisions must be consistent with this legislation

What is the time commitment?

The Council meets 9 times per year for 2 hours (3rd Tuesday evening of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm). In addition, Council members may participate on the Executive Committee and other committee and working groups of the College.

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.

College Office Closed

The office of the PEI College of Pharmacists will be closed August 28 - September 3 for staff vacation and Labour Day. The office will reopen on September 4 at 8:30 am. Staff will have access to email during this time. Please contact info@pepharmacists.ca.

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