

# The Island Capsule

PEI College of Pharmacists

7/10/2015

Edition 1, Volume 4

## *Adaptation and Therapeutic Substitution*

A brief review

Adaptation and therapeutic substitution was first legislatively enabled in PEI in the fall of 2013. The legislation allows pharmacists to adapt or therapeutically substitute a prescription if the prescription is not expired and it is not a monitored drug in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and Regulations*.

Pharmacists must have informed consent of the patient to complete an adaptation or therapeutic substitution and document their activity on the Pharmacist Prescribing Notification form.

This article will focus on adaptation, providing a brief overview.

Volume 5 of the Island Capsule will address Therapeutic Substitution. See below.....

### MISSION

*Regulating the practice of pharmacy in the province so as to promote a high standard and safeguard the welfare of the public with regard to pharmaceutical service.*

## Adaption

Pharmacists may adapt the dose a prescription following circumstances:

- The dose of a prescription may be adapted if the dose is missing from the prescription and the pharmacist has sufficient information to determine the appropriate dose.
- A patient specific factor such as weight, age, organ function requires the dose to be adjusted.
- In the pharmacist's professional judgement, a change in dose would be clinically beneficial to the patient.

## Drug Administration Webinar



The PEI College of Pharmacists will be developing a webinar over the summer to be delivered late August/Early September that will provide a refresher on Drug Administration for PEI Pharmacists. The webinar will specifically address what pharmacists are permitted to inject, the authorized routes of administration, and documentation requirements. In preparation for the webinar, the College would like to hear from pharmacists on topics they would like to be addressed during the webinar or questions they would like to have answered with regards to drug administration. Please send any questions to [registrar@pepharmacists.ca](mailto:registrar@pepharmacists.ca)

Pharmacist may adapt the formula or regimen of a prescription if:

- The prescribed formulation is not commercially available.
- The formula or regimen is missing from the prescription and the Pharmacist has sufficient information to determine the formulation or regimen.
- Adapting the formula or regimen will enhance the ability of the patient to take the drug more effectively
- In the pharmacist's professional judgement, a change in dose would be clinically beneficial to the patient.

Pharmacists may adapt the prescription's duration of drug therapy when:

- The duration of the drug therapy is missing from the prescription and there is sufficient information for the pharmacist to determine the duration.
- In the pharmacist's professional judgement, a change in dose would be clinically beneficial to the patient

Dr. Me Who  
Whoville, PE  
902-555-6666  
July 30, 2015  
Patient: Lucy Lou  
PHN: 00900000000

℞  
Amoxicillin 500 mg caps  
s: tid x 5 days  
m: 15 caps

Dr: *Dr. Me Who*

Patient info: Lucy Lou

- 2 years old, 9 kg
- Dx: otitis media in left ear with sx >5 days including temp of 40°C for two days
- No allergies to medications
- No other medications on file

In the above example, the pharmacist would be permitted to adapt the formulation of the prescription to a liquid since the child is only 2 years old and cannot swallow caps. The pharmacist would also be able to adapt the dose and regimen of the prescription as the appropriate dose of amoxicillin for a child with otitis media is 70-90 mg/kg/day divided BID (CPS position statement, 2009). The current dose of 500 mg TID would provide 166 mg/kg/day. The adapted prescription would be for amoxicillin 250 mg/5 mL suspension 405 mg (8 mL) BID

## Council Elected Pharmacy Technician Council Member

The Council of the PEI College of Pharmacists would like to congratulate and welcome Elizabeth Kennedy-Lord to Council as the Technician Representative. Elizabeth works as a technician at Shoppers Drug Mart #100 in Charlottetown and has been in the profession of pharmacy for the past 20 years.