

# The Island Capsule

PEI College of Pharmacists

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## *Amendments to Regulated Health Professions Act*

### Compounding

An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) was given Royal Assent and came into force on July 10, 2015.

Amendments to the Regulated Health Professions Act include an addition to section 86, Reserved Activities, to further define compounding in the context of the Act. Sterile compounding is a reserved activity which only a member can perform. A member by definition in the regulation is a pharmacist or pharmacy technician. Students may perform sterile compounding as a part of their training to become a pharmacist or pharmacy technician while under the direct supervision of their preceptors. Pharmacy assistants are not able to perform sterile compounding.

### 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.*

### Duty to Report

Another amendment to the RHPA is the addition of a section that requires a person who employs or engages a person to provide health care (including selling or dispensing a drug, device, equipment or another item pursuant to a prescription) as a member of a regulated health profession to ensure that the person is validly registered in the regulated health profession. This section also requires an employer to report the suspension or termination of the employee for misconduct, incompetence or incapacity to the council of the member's college.

## *Receiving Faxed prescriptions*



When receiving faxed prescriptions from prescribers, the prescription must meet the legal requirements of a prescription but must also, as set out in section 9 of the Pharmacy Act- General Regulation, contain:

- a) The name of the pharmacy and the fax number it is being sent to
- b) an indication that the fax is confidential
- c) and a certification that
  - i) the prescription represents the original of the prescription and
  - ii) the addressee is the only intended recipient and
  - iii) the original prescription will be invalidated and retained by the prescriber so that it cannot be reissued.

## Amendments to the Pharmacy Act

### Pharmacy Assistants

Amendments were also made to the Pharmacy Act to allow pharmacy assistants, in a retail setting, to perform certain activities under the direct supervision of a pharmacist who is physically present in the pharmacy. These activities include:

- Collecting information from a patient for a patient profile
- Recording and retrieving data about a patient or a prescription
- Entering prescription information into a database
- Non-sterile compounding, if a member has approved the formulation and process
- Selecting an appropriate container for a drug
- Preparing and packaging a drug for dispensing
- Attaching the prescription label and any other labels to a container
- Replenishing drug storage containers and dispensing machines
- managing drug inventory
- implementing quality assurance and risk management policies

*No person shall sell or supply to another person at any one time, without a prescription, more than*

- 100 dosage units of an exempted codeine product in a solid dosage form*
- 100 mL of an exempted codeine product in a liquid dosage form*
- 30 dosage units of dimenhydrinate and its salts in solid dosage form*
- 100 mL of dimehydrinate and its salts in a liquid dosage form.*

Pharmacy assistants in any crown corporation such as hospital or Provincial Pharmacy are permitted to participate in reserved activities, through the Exemption Regulations, until December 31, 2018 after which time they must be a member of the PEI College of Pharmacists.

### Restricted Sale or Supply

Pharmacy Act amendments also included the ability of the College to make regulations, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, regarding the amount of drug that may be dispensed or supplied at one time to a person. The amendment moves the package size restriction on exempted codeine products and dimenhydrinate from College policy into legislation, making the restrictions more enforceable. The regulations, which come into force August 1, 2015 state:

*No person shall sell or supply to another person at any one time, without a prescription, more than*

- 100 dosage units of an exempted codeine product in a solid dosage form*
- 100 mL of an exempted codeine product in a liquid dosage form*
- 30 dosage units of dimenhydrinate and its salts in solid dosage form*
- 100 mL of dimehydrinate and its salts in a liquid dosage form.*

Please note: The office of the PEI College of Pharmacists will be closed Thursday, August 6, 2015 for staff training.