

The Island Capsule

PEI College of Pharmacists

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Naloxone change in Schedule Status

Health Canada removed naloxone from the Prescription Drug List in March of 2016 after a public consultation period. Until such time as a request for drug scheduling change was submitted to the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC), naloxone remained as a schedule I drug in PEI. On June of 2016, NDSAC received a submission for a drug schedule change for naloxone. The final recommendation of the committee, which became effective June 24, 2016, is **Naloxone hydrochloride injection, when indicated for emergency use for opioid overdose outside hospital settings – be granted Schedule II status**. The National Drug Schedules have been updated accordingly. Patients and their agents can now purchase naloxone, without a prescription, from a pharmacy with a pharmacist intervention.

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.

The PEI College of Pharmacists will be providing guidance to pharmacists over the next week on meeting the expectations of the Standards of Practice with respect to naloxone dispensing. Stay tuned for more information.

Changes to Health Canada Requirements for Destruction

The PEI College of Pharmacists has received notification from Health Canada regarding changes to the requirements for destruction of narcotics and controlled substances. Effective immediately, Health Canada no longer requires pre-authorization requests for the local destruction of unserviceable narcotics and controlled drugs. Health Canada recommends the following:

1. Before any destruction, record the destruction date, name, strength per unit and quantity of controlled drugs to be destroyed.
2. Destroy the drugs in the presence of another health professional. Both witnesses should record their names and destruction date on a statement indicating they witnessed the destruction. A health professional may include: a pharmacist, practitioner, nurse or pharmacy technician.
3. The method of destruction should conform with applicable federal, provincial and municipal legislation.
4. Controlled drugs should be altered or denatured to such an extent that its consumption has been rendered impossible or improbable.