

The Island Capsule

PEI College of Pharmacists

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Cancer Treatment Centre to Launch New Program

The Charlottetown site of the Cancer Treatment Centre (CTC) is piloting a program aimed at increasing the safety of oral anticancer agents. Effective September 26, 2016 all prescriptions written for capecitabine will follow a new procedure. Once the oncologist initiates capecitabine, an oncology nurse and pharmacist with the CTC will review the prescription. The prescription will then be faxed directly to the patient's pharmacy. A pharmacist from the CTC will complete a telephone follow up with patient's pharmacy to ensure the prescription has been received and to answer any questions or concerns that the pharmacy may have. Once the patient has their prescription filled they will be scheduled for a final teaching session with the CTC before they are to begin treatment ensuring the directions are clearly understood.

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 CTC would like to stress the importance of the community pharmacist communicating to the patient that their medications are not to be started until they have been contacted by the oncology nurse. The program was initiated with capecitabine due to the frequent use and complex dosing of this drug. The CTC hopes to expand the program in the future to include all oral anticancer agents. With the increased use of oral anticancer agents there is a need to work collaboratively to increase their safety and decrease risks for the patient. For any questions or concerns regarding this program please contact the pharmacists at the CTC, Valerie or Barb at 902-894-2379.

College Council Approves Naloxone Policy

The Council of the PEI College of Pharmacists approved the [Policy for Pharmacy Professionals Dispensing or Selling Naloxone](#) at the September 20, 2016 meeting.

The policy was drafted in response to Health Canada's announcement that naloxone was being removed from the Prescription Drug List. Subsequent to Health Canada's announcement, the National Drug Schedule Advisory Committee reviewed naloxone to recommend the appropriate National Drug Schedule status.

The policy provides guidance to pharmacy professionals when providing naloxone to patients or their agents.