



Professional Standards Regarding Review of Monitored Drug History Before Prescribing

This document is a **standard** approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.

A standard reflects the minimum professional and ethical behaviour, conduct or practice expected by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. Physicians licensed with the College are required to be familiar with and comply with the College standards.

Preamble

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia (CPSNS) supports and encourages the use of the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (NSPMP). Through the NSPMP eAccess web application, prescribers and pharmacists can quickly access the most recent 18 months of prescribing history. The College encourages physicians to always review the drug profile of all patients when prescribing controlled substances.

Professional Standards

1. When caring for patients in episodic, urgent or emergent care settings, physicians or delegates, where the delegate is a regulated health professional within the patient's circle of care, must review the patient's drug profile as maintained by the NSPMP prior to prescribing narcotics or any controlled drugs or substances.
2. Regardless of the care setting, the College considers the information available through e-Access to be part of the patient record. Physicians are required to be familiar with its contents.

Definitions

Controlled Substances:

A [controlled substance](#) is any type of drug that the federal government has categorized as having a higher-than-average potential for abuse and addiction. Such drugs are divided into three categories based on their potential for abuse and addiction. Controlled substances range from illegal street drugs to prescription medications. Controlled substances are drugs listed under [Canada's Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#) included in Schedule I, II, III, IV or V.

(Sources: [Health Canada](#) and [Canada's Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#))

Monitored Drugs:

Any drug that is a controlled drug under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) and is listed in the Schedules to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) or any successor legislation is designated as being subject to the Program, except the following:

- (a) testosterone, when dispensed as a compound for topical application for local effect;
- (b) drugs listed in Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 1 to the *Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations* made under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada).

(Source: [Prescription Monitoring Regulations](#))

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I use the eAccess web application?

Helpful information pertaining to the eAccess web application can be found in the [eAccess User Guide](#).

What if my walk-in clinic doesn't have internet access?

You can call the patient's pharmacy for their drug history as all pharmacists have access to the eAccess tool.

Document History

Approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia: **March 21, 2014**
(Effective June 1, 2014)

Revised: **March 24, 2017**

Revised: **December 8, 2017**

Approximate date of next review: **2020**

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