



The Hamilton Academy of Medicine

October 1, 2008

Dear Members:

It has recently come to our attention the increase in the number fraud prescription cases in the Hamilton area, particularly opioid/narcotic prescriptions. These fraudulent cases have involved both hand written and EMR printed prescriptions given to patients.

This has been a concern for local physicians and pharmacists. As a result, the Hamilton Academy of Medicine has resurrected their Physician & Pharmacists Committee to work together to address various issues, including this one. This Committee welcomes any feedback/input from members.

The Hamilton & District Pharmacists Association (HDPhA) has a program called the Prescription Forgery Alert System. Over 250 pharmacists participate in the program to reduce the number of forgeries in our community. The organization uses a fax fan out system to pharmacists to disseminate information of suspicious prescriptions. In addition, HDPhA has developed a working relationship with the Hamilton Police Department to create awareness of their efforts to reduce forgeries and their work to keep narcotic/controlled substances off the streets and out of schools. If you suspect a fraudulent case, please contact the "**Prescription Forgery Alert System**" tel: 905-528-4214, ext. 255.

We are encouraging members to take extra precautions when prescribing, particularly these types of prescriptions.

If the Hamilton Academy of Medicine or the Hamilton & District Pharmacists Association can be of assistance to members, please do not hesitate to contact us through Maryann Vasic at the Hamilton Academy office 905-528-1640 or maryann@hamiltontdoctors.ca.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Guscott, MD, FRCPC
President
Hamilton Academy of Medicine

Faisal Kabir
President
Hamilton & District Pharmacists Assoc.

RGG:mv

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