

Latest News From President Leslie Chappell

Here's a quick update on some of the activities that we have been working on as the Hamilton and District Pharmacists' Association executive.

In February all pharmacies should have received posters, tear pads, and a binder for the newest "It's Hamilton's Time to Get Healthy" campaign; "It's Hamilton's Time to Quit". HDPHA partnered with Hamilton Academy of Medicine, Hamilton Public Health Services, Smokers Helpline, and EMS of Hamilton to bring a very important message about smoking cessation. We were also able to partner with the STOP study to promote a smoking cessation clinic on Mar 1st. Thank you to everyone who has been putting up posters and providing a consistent message across Hamilton that we want to help our patients quit smoking.

We have also been working with the Prescription Refill Optimization Program (PROP) task force to develop posters and patient information about the program. The purpose of this project is to increase the use of Meds Checks and decrease the excess time wasted on faxing for prescription refills. We will be developing guidelines for minimum requirements for meds checks, to develop a document that will assist physicians in reconciling patient's med lists in the offices and allow up to a year's supply of prescription renewals. This will be coming in the next couple of months, more details will be provided soon.

The HDPHA executive has spent a lot of time working with an external

consultant and developing a membership survey to examine our mission and vision statement. We want to make sure that HDPHA is listening to our members and providing you with the activities and support that is most important to you. Please take the time to complete the survey and return it to us so your opinion can count. The survey can be found on the internet at www.hdpha.ca.

Finally, on April 5th we will be having our HDPHA AGM at the CE event. Please come out to support your local association, and hear the excellent speakers at the continuing education event as well!

Pharmacy Technician Registration Update By Technician Representative Carmie Giglia

As of December 7, 2010, Ontario became the first province in Canada to regulate pharmacy technicians. Pharmacy technicians officially became recognized as a new class of registrant within the Ontario College of Pharmacists. This is a major milestone for Ontario and the entire profession. The College began the process of regulation in 1998. Since then the College has developed and instituted a bridging program for technicians and adjusted the current curriculum, to reflect the upcoming regulations. This means that technicians who were already certified were given the opportunity to start the registration process, as well as technicians who were currently enrolled in the Pharmacy Technician program.

A high light of a few of the new tasks a Registered Technicians can perform are: the Independent Double Check. They will be accountable for checking

and releasing all new, repeat and narcotic prescriptions. In addition, once further legislative changes to the Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act and Food and Drug Act regulations are in place, the Registered Technician can complete prescription transfers and accept verbal prescriptions. Full details about the Scope of Practice for Registered Technicians can be found in the "Professional Competencies for Pharmacy Technicians at Entry-to-Practice in Canada (NAPRA, 2007)"

Registered Technicians will now become full voting members within the Ontario College of Pharmacists. Eligible Registered Technicians will be elected to two seats on the Council. One seat will be for a Registered Technician who works in a hospital setting, in District "TH". The other

seat will be held for a Registered Technician who works in any other pharmacy setting, in District "T". Each district will be able to elect one member to the Council.

Congratulations to the first 140 technicians who are already Registered. You have been an inspiration to all of us. Also, for those who are still working towards Registration, keep up the good work!

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Ontario Diabetes Strategy by Regional Administrator HNHB Janet MacLead

Dear Pharmacist,

As the population ages, diabetes is becoming increasingly prevalent in our communities. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) has recognized this trend and has implemented various teams across Ontario to be involved in a provincial diabetes initiative known as the Ontario Diabetes Strategy (ODS). Part of the initiative is to bridge the gap in diabetes services across the continuum of care from prevention to complex care in order to better serve our diabetes population.

The mandate of the RCC is:

- Service coordination and addressing gaps in prevention, primary care, acute care, long term care and community.
- Work to engage diabetes education centers to promote best practice.
- Engage the community and build upon existing networks, and monitor performance metrics through data collection on all the various organizations that provide diabetes care.

- Ensure that 100% of Ontarians with diabetes are connected with a primary care provider and ensure that 80% of adults with diabetes have their cholesterol, retinal eye exam and HbA1c test measured within the guidelines.

One of the deliverables that the MOHLTC has requested is that we survey providers working within diabetes services in an effort to understand the types of diabetes related services the strengths and opportunities. This is being done across our geographic area and across the province. Our intent is to use this data to inform a work plan to move diabetes care and management forward in our LHIN. We have put together a survey in consultation with two pharmacists, one of which is Linda Sparrow, a local pharmacist and member of our RCC's Steering Committee. The information collected will remain confidential and the results of this survey will be available to you in May along with a final report that incorporates various stakeholders.

Please note that this survey is to be filled out by individual pharmacists for themselves—not per pharmacy.

Please take 15 minutes to complete this on-line survey which can be accessed at the following link:

<http://fhsson.csu.mcmaster.ca/limes/drc/index.php?sid=74142&lang=en>

If you would prefer a paper version of the survey, please contact Debbie Wilcox (wilcox@hhsc.ca or 905-521-2100 ext. 46761).

The RCC team is looking forward to your participation in our survey and thank you for taking the time out in your busy schedules to assist us in planning. If you have any questions, please contact me at 905-521-2100 Ext 46761 or macleodj@hhsc.ca.

Sincerely,

Janet MacLeod

Regional Administrator,

Diabetes Regional Coordination

My Time at a Community Pharmacy: By U of T SPEP Student Greg Slobodian

Where do I begin? My last rotation at a community pharmacy was quite an eye-opening experience. Located in Hamilton's inner-city, the outside building looks very modest; on the inside, however, there is much going on. From dispensary to IV preparation, the pharmacy is anything but average. As a 4th year SPEP pharmacy student, I could not have asked to be placed in a more diverse community practice. I was exposed to specialty compounding, methadone patients, IV drugs, Home Med-Check visits and much more. I had the opportunity to learn from pharmacists, pharmacy technicians/assistants, and office staff. Everyone helped play a role in my learning. I was very grateful for the kindness and help

I received on a daily basis.

The variety of experiences I had while at the community pharmacy was also quite informative. I had the opportunity to run a diabetes clinic where I learned about new A1C testing methods and worked with some community dietitians. The support and help I received from the staff while I was planning for and running the diabetes clinic was amazing.

Another area that I participated in was the charity and community work that the pharmacy is involved in. I attended a presentation (sponsored by community leaders and the Tiger Cats Association) given to school-age children about the importance of exercise

and healthy eating. The pharmacy staff also included me in team meetings (in-store and at a local hospice) and gave me a number of chances to attend many interesting events.

Although my time at the community pharmacy was only for two months, it has made a lasting impression on me. I am grateful to have worked with a staff that has such a high commitment to their patients. Thanks to all of the staff for providing me with such a great learning experience and a special thanks to my preceptors.

Upcoming Events: By C.E. Coordinator Antonietta Forrester

April 5, 2011: AGM + 3 CE topics: HPV, COPD and BPH at LoPresti's at Maxwell's

May 11, 2011: Drugs in the Elderly and the deBeer's criteria –speaker Iris Krawchenko (pharmacist), Location TBA

Also, if there is anyone interested in manning the HDPHA booth voluntarily for the ArcelorMital (formerly Dofasco) Health Fair in April, please contact Antonietta Forrester at 905-528-4214 ext 730

New Regulation Under DPRA By Registrar Deanna L. Williams, R.Ph., B.Sc.Ph., C.Dir., CAE

Dear Colleagues:

The College's new regulations made under the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act* (DPRA) and the *Pharmacy Act* (advertising) were passed into law and are now in effect. I would like to point out the highlights.

Effective immediately, pharmacists practicing in accredited pharmacies are now able to refill existing prescriptions under specified conditions without further authorization from a prescriber, excluding those for narcotic or controlled drugs.

These provisions apply only to accredited pharmacy practice not to pharmacists practicing in other settings and will be revoked once the new proposed regulation under the *Pharmacy Act* is approved giving effect to the enhanced scope of practice for all pharmacists in Ontario.

The College will now be able to hold equally accountable all owners and operators of accredited pharmacies whether or not

they are members of the College

Standards of accreditation and operation have been updated to reflect current practice and technology and to correspond to specific types of practice. Minimum size requirements for a pharmacy, an area affording acoustical privacy, and requirements for document and record scanning and retention are among the changes.

Remote dispensing may now occur through a remote dispensing location or an automated pharmacy system located in a remote dispensing location provided that the pharmacy that operates the remote location has been approved and granted a certificate of accreditation permitting it to operate that remote dispensing location. Remote dispensing locations are operated by a pharmacy but are not located in the accredited pharmacy. Additional accreditation standards are set out for remote dispensing locations which follow the principles previously approved by Council which are safety and security, validity and authentic-

ity of prescriptions, and accountability for the operation.

The College as always is committed to ensuring that members know and understand the implications of new law and to assisting members in complying with any new requirements. Accordingly, webcasts are being planned and dates and times will be available on the College website shortly. I encourage you to visit the [website for the regulation in its entirety](#) and to plan to participate in the webcasts.

Yours truly,

Deanna L. Williams, R.Ph., B.Sc.Ph.,
C.Dir., CAE
Registrar

Update from OCP Representative Tracy Wiersema

The College Welcomes First Elected Pharmacy Technicians to the Council Table

College Council welcomed Ms. Amber Walker (District T) and Ms. Tracy Wills (District TH) to their inaugural meeting as elected members of Council. Both pharmacy technician members were acclaimed in recent elections for a 2 ½ year term expiring in fall 2013. Since the proclamation of the Registration Regulation in December 2010, the College has been working towards integrating this new class of registrant into all areas of College operations.

Regulation to Enable an Expanded Scope of Practice Ratified

Council ratified the draft regulation to the *Pharmacy Act* to enable an enhanced scope of pharmacy practice.

The proposed regulation outlines the duties of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, interns and students with respect to prescribing a drug, administering a substance by

injection or inhalation and performing a procedure on tissue below the dermis as permitted by the *Pharmacy Act*. The regulation also includes requirements that must be met in order to practice the expanded scope and the circumstances in which a member may adapt or extend a prescription or administer a substance. The proposed regulation, together with a list of drugs proposed for initiating therapy and a list of substances proposed for administration by injection or inhalation, can be found on the website.

Although Council complied with the Ministry's request that the College submit a regulatory proposal at this time that is substantively consistent with that circulated to members and stakeholders, Council unanimously agreed that the matter of pharmacists being able to provide immunizations is important and as such, should continue to be explored and further discussed at the Council meeting in September.

Drug And Pharmacies Regulations Act - Regulation Update

Council was advised that the College's new

regulation made under the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act* (DPRA) previously circulated and replacing the former regulations 545/90, 551/90 and 297/96, had been sealed and was signed by President Hauser and Registrar Williams. It was expected to receive final approval in the very near future.

In keeping with Council's position that the College must retain the right of approval for all technology which enables the transmission of paper-based prescriptions through an automated pharmacy system located in a remote dispensing location, and based on results of extensive pilot testing conducted in the fall by the College's technology expert, Council passed a motion approving the technology that is currently acceptable in meeting the expectations set out in sections 40 (4) and 29(d) of the new DPRA regulation. Certificates of Accreditation that permit the operation of a remote dispensing location by an accredited pharmacy in Ontario will only be

Update from OCP Representative Tracy Wiersema Continued

Continued from page 3

issued where the College is satisfied that the technology employed has been approved by Council and that all other standards have been demonstrated to be in place.

All members of the College, and all pharmacy owners and operators will be notified when the regulatory changes made under the DPRA and the Pharmacy Act (advertising) come into effect. Highlights reported to Council include:

Pharmacist Authorization of Prescription Extensions (PAPE) - Subject to the conditions set out in the regulation, pharmacists practicing in accredited pharmacies only will immediately be able to refill existing prescriptions for patients (note - no narcotic or controlled drugs may be refilled.) Also of note is that these provisions currently apply only to accredited pharmacy practice and not to pharmacists practicing in other settings - these will be revoked once the new proposed regulation under the *Pharmacy Act* is approved and which will give effect to the new and en-

hanced scope of practice for all pharmacists in Ontario.

Issuance and Renewal of Certificates of Accreditation - The Accreditation Committee will now have the authority to renew, renew with terms, conditions or limitations, or not to renew a Certificate of Accreditation.

Standards of Accreditation and Operation - The standards have been updated and reflect current practice and technology. Included in the changes are minimum size requirements, mandated area affording acoustical privacy, requirements for document and record scanning and retention, and the point of care signage.

Proprietary Misconduct - ALL owners and operators of accredited pharmacies, whether or not they are members, will now be held equally accountable.

Remote Dispensing - The principles respecting remote dispensing (safety and security; valid and authentic prescriptions; and accountability) have been maintained in these amendments. Accordingly, as previously approved by Council, remote dispensing may occur through a remote dispensing location or an automated pharmacy system located in a remote dispensing location provided that the pharmacy that operates the remote location has been approved and granted a certificate of accreditation permitting it to operate that remote dispensing location. Remote dispensing locations are operated by a pharmacy but are not located in or at the same location as the pharmacy.

In an effort to ensure that that all members know and understand the new law and the implications to pharmacy practice in Ontario, webcasts have been planned.

Updates from OPA District L Representative Gary Fillmore

Your Ontario Pharmacist's Association is the only voice for all Ontario Pharmacists, regardless where they practice. We have continue to advocate on your behalf and have the following updates .

As a result of ongoing advocacy by the Ontario Pharmacists' Association with individual third party adjudicators and pharmacy benefit managers, we are pleased to inform pharmacy owners, managers, and pharmacists that most adjudicators will be honouring a washout period for generic pharmaceutical products purchased prior to April 1, 2011. The washout periods vary based on internal decisions reached by individual adjudicators and will range from 20 to 30 days.

The first set of expanded services funded by the Ontario government is the Pharmaceutical Opinion Program, available April 1, 2011 to Ontario Drug Benefit recipients. This is a direct result of the work we advocated that led to the Expanding Professional Pharmacy Services (EPPS) working group, which included significant OPA Board representation. Complete details on the Pharmaceutical Opinion program are available at health.gov.on.ca/cs/medscheck/professionals.html. OPA is creating tools to aid members in completing the Pharmaceutical Opinion in an efficient manner, while ensuring compliance with government requirements.

More recently, OPA met with Minister Deborah Matthews in February 2011 to ask her to extend the transition fee, since the services had not been identified and payment had not yet been enabled. The

government has now put forward a regulatory amendment to extend the current \$1 per prescription transition fee through June 2011. This amendment may not take effect immediately but, if approved, would be retroactive to April 1, 2011.

We are encouraged by these developments resulting from our advocacy work, and view them as recognition of the value of pharmacists.

The Drug Information and Research Centre (DIRC) at the Ontario Pharmacists' Association is widely recognized as a provider of high-quality, unbiased, evidence-based educational programs and is one of the few organizations that has been granted Accredited Provider status by the Canadian Council of Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP). DIRC's quality programs provide pharmacists with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in specific clinical areas and promote the recognition of pharmacists as healthcare providers who have advanced training. OPA's Conference 2011 registration brochure is now online

The registration brochure for this year's OPA conference is now online. A copy of the brochure will be mailed out to all members next week, but you can get a head start by [downloading the brochure](#) today. Online registration will be available early next week. **Register before May 13 to receive the early bird discount!**

Conference 2011 will be held at the beautiful Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville from June 9 until June 11, 2011. This year's event will feature 24 education sessions on a wide variety of topics, including the expanded MedsCheck program, remote pharmacy services, travel pharmacy, childhood and adolescent obesity and more.

NEW: Be one of the first pharmacists in Ontario to participate in the Nutrition for Pharmacists Certificate Program - a new OPA continuing education program being offered for the first time at Conference 2011.

For more information on OPA's Conference 2011, or to view photos from the 2010 event, visit www.opatoday.com.

Although one pharmacy chain has decided to not pay for OPA memberships for its pharmacists, we encourage all pharmacists to look closely at what OPA is doing to advance the role of pharmacists in Ontario. No other organization has the mandate or the ability to speak for all pharmacists, but we need your support to continue building on our successes.

Please contact me if you have any comments, questions or suggestions concerning the OPA.

Gary Fillmore
OPA Board of Directors ,
District L Representative

Financial Report By Treasurer Joseph Giudice


Financial reports are not posted on the website. Please e-mail your request to have a copy of the financial report to Giuseppina De Santis at pina-desantis@excite.com or check your e-mail for a copy of the newsletter.

February 1, 2011, The Hamilton & District Pharmacists' Association Membership Campaign will once again started. The fee for a pharmacist is \$50.00 and a Technician is \$20.00. This is an annual fee that entitles the member to any and all continuing education events, access to the prescription forgery alert system, e-mails from the administrative assistant, website access and the quarterly newsletter.

Everyone should have received their Income Tax receipts for both the annual membership and the StopCuts.ca advertisement campaign by e-mail. If you have not received them, please contact Giuseppina De Santis @pina-desantis@excite.com.

The AGM will be held on April 5, 2011 before the three-topic continuing education event held at Maxwell's at Lopresti. The positions up for a two-year term are: Vice President, Secretary, Communications, Membership/ce assistant, Waste Management and pharmacy technician/assistant. If anyone is interested, please complete the nomination form and return to Giuseppina De Santis either by fax or in person on April 5, 2011, the night of the elections.

Members are also encouraged to complete and return the HDPhA membership survey. Your assistance in this manner allows the executive council to focus their time and energy in areas most important to the association. The survey can be found on the web-



Contact Information
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Hamilton & District Pharmacists' Association

2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this 2011 Membership Form and send it along with your cheque to:

Hamilton & District Pharmacists' Association
Centre Mall, P.O. Box 47583
1183 Barton Street East
Hamilton, ON Canada L8H 7S7

A membership card and receipt will be sent to the mailing address you have indicated.

All mailing information, including e-mail address, must be completed to ensure that you have all future HDPHA correspondence

NOTE: If making payments for members other than yourself, please be sure to include ALL of the following information FOR EACH MEMBER INVOLVED. Photocopy form as needed (i.e. one form per Pharmacist/technician).

PHARMACIST FORM			
Membership Fee \$50.00			
Name:		OCP#:	
Business			
Business Name:			
City:			
Phone:		Fax Number:	
Home			
Address:		City:	
Phone:		Postal Code:	
E-Mail:			

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN/ASSISTANT FORM			
Membership Fee \$20.00			
Name:			
Address			
City		Postal Code:	
Phone:		Fax Number:	
E-Mail			

Photo/Video Release

I, hereby give permission for my images captured through video, photo and digital camera, to be used in perpetuity for the purposes of the Hamilton & District Pharmacists' Association public relations/promotional/ marketing materials and publications, including but no limited to print and/or electronic publications, web sites, posters, advertisements and other association-related materials.

These images may appear in any of a variety of formats and media now available, or which may be available in the future, including but not limited to print, broadcast, DVD, CD-ROM, videotape, streaming and all electronic and/or online media.

Signature: _____ Date _____

