

Report to the NB Branch of the CSHP

New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society Observer

Attended NBPhS Council meetings on November 20th, 2007 & February 12th, 2008 & Conference call on March 18th, 2008

Items of Interest:

1. The Amendments to the Pharmacy Act
 - Letters have been sent out to various stakeholders with enclosed copies of proposed amendments to the Pharmacy Act. (New Brunswick Medical Society, Nurses' Association of New Brunswick, New Brunswick Dental Society, NB Veterinary Medical Association, NB Association of Optometrists, College of Physicians and Surgeons of NB, NB Pharmacists' Association, all NB Health Authorities, 3rd party insurance companies, Dalhousie Student Pharmacy society.) These amendments to the Act will help bridge the gap between the current Act and when the new Act goes to the Provincial Legislature for final approval.
 - If all goes according to plan the Amendments to the Pharmacy Act allowing for prescribing will be entered into the Legislature on Tuesday, May 20th.
2. The New Pharmacy Act – The new Act is almost completed.
 - Changes incorporated from counsel members, checked for obvious mistakes, and compared against other provinces' Acts. Now gone to lawyer for revision.
 - Lengthy discussion on how to bring members up to speed: new website for NBPhS to be up and running in April. Members only section (login & password mandatory) to post new Act, Regulations, and an Introduction piece explaining changes.
 - Members can expect regional meetings in the fall (2008) for the "Introduction to Pharmacist Prescribing" piece. The purpose of this document is to introduce pharmacist prescribing and describe in detail what prescribing is and the requirements for pharmacists to prescribe.
 - Possibly unveil the new Act at same time if it is completed. Counsel would like to present the new Act to members before soliciting feedback so as to describe the changes. This will hopefully minimize misinterpretation.
 - Hope to have discussion forums and blogs set up on the revised website, which will be a good way to address many of the questions and comments and allow everyone to see.
 - Most likely will go to Legislature in Spring 2009.
3. Professional Development – changing how we collect CEUs.
 - Pilot project of ~50 people will be done based on the New Zealand model of Continued Professional Development (CPD). This will allow time for tweaking the model to achieve our goals, and then it will roll out to all members. No more "form M" to fill out!
 - New way will be to record 2 events where you learned something, had an outcome, improved patient care, or developed your knowledge. "What was the outcome? How did it change your practise?"
 - A suggestion was made to incorporate some of the current way with the new way: have CEUs & CPDs. More information will be given at next meeting.
4. Strategic planning session
 - To be held sometime in spring of 2009, after the New Act has been approved.
 - People from the Association and members of the NBPhS will be invited to attend.
 - It was agreed that there is no point in having it at the AGM this May 2008, as the new Act has not been approved by the government.
5. News from the College of Pharmacy
 - New position for a Research Chair in Pharmacy Business Management in the pipeline. This Chair will be an active teaching position, involved in training the next generation of pharmacists in business management and leadership skills.
 - A new program proposal for a Masters in Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences has been submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and should start in September 2008.
6. Regulation of Pharmacy Technicians
 - PEBC is developing an exam for technician certification. In the beginning, there will be two tests: 1st exam is Evaluating Exam. Anyone can take this exam. If you pass this, you can take the 2nd exam: Qualifying exam, which will be a written and a practical exam (similar to PEBC & OSCE). If you pass this, you will be certified. Then you must write the provincial jurisprudence exam. CCCEP will be in charge of regulating & monitoring CE credits for technicians.
7. Midwives & Podiatrists
 - Have been given prescriptive authority in New Brunswick. A formulary will be constructed for their prescriptive authority. A member from the NBPS board was asked to sit on the committee which will help to decide what will be on their formulary.

Respectfully submitted by Erin Clarke, BSc.Pharm