

CSHP Professional Liability Insurance – for Nova Scotia Branch Members

Historically, pharmacists in NS had to be PANS members and purchase personal liability insurance through PANS (it was the only policy that met NSCP criteria). The new regulations allow insurance coverage through other sources if it meets NSCP criteria. CSHP NS Branch, with the assistance of CSHP National, has been investigating whether our members would be able to purchase liability insurance through CSHP instead of PANS. Myrella Roy, Executive Director CSHP, worked extremely hard on our behalf to negotiate necessary changes to the CSHP insurance policy to meet criteria set by NSCP.

We have confirmed with Bev Zwicker that CSHP insurance is a valid option for NSCP members. Please read the follow Q & A so you are aware of the logistical issues.

Q: Over what calendar period is CSHP insurance valid?

CSHP insurance runs from July 1 each year to June 30 (same as the CSHP membership year). NSCP license year is January 1 to December 31. The first year you choose CSHP insurance will be a transition year and you will pay the premium in the Fall and again in June of the following year. CSHP insurance offers a discount of 25% when you renew in the Fall. You must be a CSHP member to access CSHP insurance so IT WILL BE UP TO YOU TO REMEMBER that your CSHP membership is linked to your professional liability insurance which means that CSHP membership and liability insurance will need to be renewed on time (by the end of June each year). If you do not renew your CSHP membership and insurance on time, your NSCP license is invalid.

Q: Do I have to submit anything to NSCP to prove I have insurance through CSHP?

YES. NSCP requires proof of insurance when you switch insurance companies so if you choose to insure with CSHP insurance instead of PANS, you need to register with Benson Kearley (CSHP insurance broker) EARLY. Once your insurance premium is paid you will be issued an insurance certificate that is accessible on line and this document MUST be submitted to NSCP BEFORE you can register for your license with NSCP. NSCP registration deadline is November 30 and there is a large late fee fine. The certificate of insurance can be faxed to NSCP or emailed to Melissa Rhodes, Manager of Registrations (mrhodes@nspharmacists.ca). The information must be entered in to the NSCP database by Melissa before you can complete the NSCP registration process.

Q: What is the time line to accessing an insurance certificate once fees are paid?

Once you've completed the on-line application and your credit card payment is approved, coverage is immediate and is effective the date that the on-line application is signed and dated. Confirmation is immediate. You can print out a copy of your Certificate of Insurance right away.

Q: What level of insurance do I need?

CSHP insurance offers various levels. According to NSCP criteria, a \$2,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 aggregate is required as a minimum. See NSCP regulations for details (page 4 & 5)

<http://www.nspharmacists.ca/legislation/documents/PHARMACYPRACTICEREGSFINALreformattedminorrevisionsRegofRegs2.pdf>

Q: What if my CSHP membership has lapsed or if I am not currently a CSHP member?

Lapsed CSHP members and non-CSHP members need to allow 24 hours for CSHP staff to process their membership application before being able to purchase the insurance online. To speed up processing (since NSCP registration is due by the end of November) it would be preferable to send the completed CSHP membership application form by e-mail to membershipservices@cshp.ca or by fax (rather than submitting it online). It would also be advisable to call the National Office so they are aware of the time line.

Q: Is CSHP insurance exactly the same as PANS insurance?

The CSHP insurance policy is not exactly the same as the PANS insurance policy; however, it does meet NSCP criteria. Please see the document that has additional questions posed to Myrella Roy, Executive Director of CSHP, and her response.

Q: What are the comparable costs?

1. PANS membership (**based on January 2014 fees**):

- CSHP member (hospital pharmacist only no community shifts) with PANS liability insurance \$282.25

- CSHP member (hospital pharmacist only no community shifts) without PANS liability insurance \$132.25

- Hospital pharmacist (non-CSHP member or works community) with PANS liability insurance \$495

- Hospital pharmacist (non-CSHP member or works community) without PANS liability insurance \$345

2. CSHP Membership (**based on June 2014 fees**):

- CSHP membership (no insurance) \$390.60

- CSHP with minimum insurance required \$565.60 (\$390.60 membership + \$175 insurance)

- If you are a current active CSHP member only, in November 2014 only the CSHP insurance portion will have to be paid $\$175 - 25\% = \131.25

- If you choose CSHP liability insurance, you will have a transition year and full CSHP registration and liability insurance will be paid in June 2015

Q: If I decide to purchase insurance through CSHP, how do I register for CSHP Insurance?

Go to the CSHP National website and click the Membership button. Follow links.

Theresa Hurley, NS Branch Delegate
on behalf of NS Branch CSHP