

SCOPE newsletter

March 2021



SASKATCHEWAN
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
PROFESSIONALS

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Minor Ailments Updates are Major

All the way back in 2003, pharmacists were given the authority to prescribe medications, one specifically, for emergency contraception. Then in 2010, this prescriptive authority was widened to include more ailments. Cut to 2021 and those minor ailments number a total of 27 and in the past year, medSask has reviewed and updated 21.

In a minor ailment program, the pharmacist is the first point of contact for the patient. The patient approaches the pharmacist for advice about treatment of a self-diagnosed condition. If the self-diagnosis is reasonable based on the pharmacist's assessment and the best treatment option in the pharmacist's judgment is a Schedule 1 drug, the pharmacist may initiate a prescription. The prescription must be in accordance with the [minor ailment guidelines](#) and have an approved indication for the patient's self-diagnosed condition.

Pharmacist minor ailment and self-care prescribing strengthens the relationship between the patient and the pharmacist.

"It also benefits other members of the health care team as it reduces the burden on the health care system by allowing pharmacists the ability to treat minor ailment conditions," explains Lori Postnikoff, SCPP Deputy Registrar.

The story of the minor ailments guidelines and prescribing for them starts where all of pharmacy practice starts – *The Pharmacy and*



Pharmacy Disciplines Act and SCPP's Regulatory Bylaws. And, it culminates in the public interest.

"The work to review the guidelines will ensure pharmacists have the most current, evidenced-based information to provide safe care," says SCPP Registrar Jeana Wendel. "The public can be confident that pharmacists are competent in their minor ailment prescribing should they choose to prescribe."

Part K of those bylaws states that minor ailments training will be determined from time to time by SCPP's Registrar and will be subject to the approval of SCPP Council but will include training on patient assessment and prescribing policies and processes, as well as training on the guidelines.

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The SCOPe newsletter is published by the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) and is emailed to active members of the College. Decisions on matters such as regulations, drug schedule changes, etc., are published in SCOPe. All members are expected to be aware of these matters.



With this in mind, in February of 2020, Council approved work to be conducted in a phased approach to meet Part K of the bylaws. The first phase was a review of all 27 minor ailments for which pharmacists can prescribe, to ensure they are accurate, up to date, and based on the most current clinical information. Enter medSask.

"Writing the new guidelines (27 plus travel health!) had been the focus for so many years, so it was time to do a comprehensive review," explains Danielle Larocque, Associate Director, medSask and Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacy Professionals (CPDPP). "As the guidelines continue to evolve, we help ensure that pharmacist prescribing allows for increased access to treatment, and this subsequently improves access to physicians and nurse practitioners for more serious conditions."

The team of experts at medSask consults with many other health care professionals, best practices and evidence-based literature when preparing these guidelines. They worked through the last year to have 21 minor ailments reviewed, updated and approved by Council so far. The remaining six will be completed in 2021.

"Ensuring the minor ailments guidelines have a documented and specific review cycle is critical in ensuring the most current evidenced-based practice is occurring and that patients are receiving the best treatment options available," says Wendel. "This is

part of the College's commitment to our mission and vision and our strategic goals including aligning pharmacy regulation with modern pharmacy practice and empowering pharmacy professionals to practice autonomously to deliver safe patient care."

What's next for minor ailments? The remaining six guidelines are on track to be reviewed and updated by the middle of 2021. CPDPP will then move onto the second phase which includes reviewing, updating and modernizing the Prescriptive Authority Level 1 Basics and Minor Ailments Basics Level 1 Training.

In 2020, minor ailment guidelines found a new home with the Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Program (SHIRP). This meant all licensed health care professionals in Saskatchewan retained access to the guidelines, while allowing the opportunity to offer a subscription model for guideline access outside of Saskatchewan and winning the program some sustainability.

Thus, all of Canada gets to benefit from the quality work completed in Saskatchewan.

You can review the summary of changes for each guideline on the [Guideline Updates](#) page on the medSask website. Also see [Prescriptive Authority – Pharmacist](#) in the SCPP Reference Manual.

Read the recent [Ministry of Health bulletin](#) for more information. ■

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COVID-19 Updates

Rapid COVID-19 Testing – for Pharmacy Staff

The Ministry of Health announced it is deploying more than 700,000 rapid COVID-19 tests.

The tests will be provided to pharmacies for pharmacists to test asymptomatic staff members. The nasal swab test returns results in 15 minutes and will further support the safety of the pharmacy workforce.

SCPP will continue to provide more information as regulatory amendments are necessary to enable pharmacists to perform these tests. In addition, further information regarding the required training, competencies, and reporting are still being determined by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and/or the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA).

Members are encouraged to check SCPP's [COVID-19 page](#) and the web [news feed](#) for up-to-date information.

Pharmacists Receive Authorization to Administer COVID-19 Vaccine

SCPP has received official authorization from Dr. Saqib Shahab, Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer, enabling licensed pharmacists with Advanced Method Certification (AMC) to administer Moderna and/or Pfizer vaccines to Saskatchewan residents.

The official authorization satisfies the requirement of Part L section 9(a) of the bylaws.

Drugs that may be administered by a licensed pharmacist with Advanced Method Certification

9 A licensed pharmacist with Advanced Method Certification may administer any of the following drugs: (a) a

publicly funded vaccine provided under a provincial immunization program, where the Ministry of Health has approved administration by licensed pharmacists;

As other COVID-19 vaccines are approved and available to pharmacies, additional authorization will be required.

Pharmacists with AMC and any authorized immunizers (extended interns, pharmacy students, pharmacy technicians or retired pharmacists) who wish to administer the authorized COVID-19 vaccines will be required to do product-specific training in addition to any further training as determined by the MoH and the SHA.

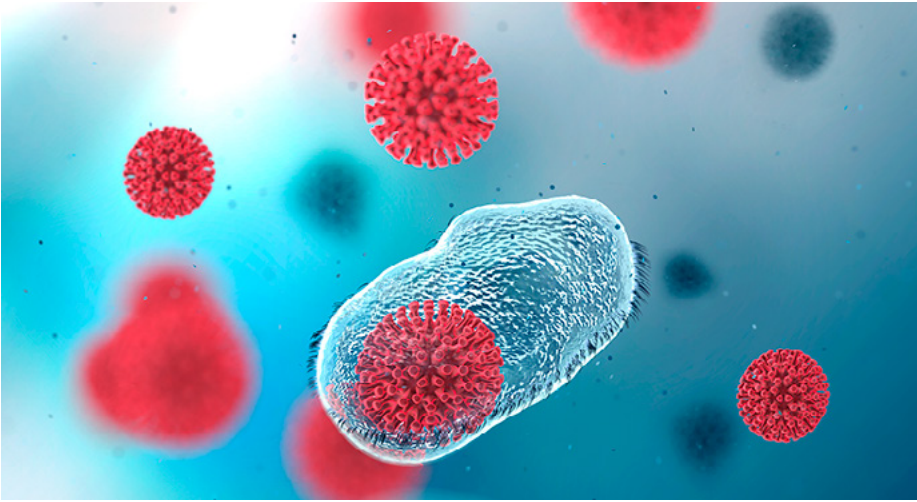
As of publication the training required includes:

- [Brand-specific Vaccine Modules](#)
- Vaccine Hesitancy Module. Note that pharmacists who completed EPIC training since December 2020 do not have to complete Vaccine Hesitancy training as it was recently added to EPIC. Specific details on this module are still being worked out at the MoH and SHA level and more details will be coming as this is finalized.

As with any medication, the pharmacist must have the knowledge, skills and ability prior to providing the medication.

See [Administration of Drugs by Injection](#) in the SCPP Reference Manual.

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Increasing the Health Workforce to Administer COVID-19 Vaccine

The Disease Control (COVID-19) Amendment Regulations, 2021 came into force on February 24, 2021.

Among other things, *The Disease Control (COVID-19) Amendment Regulations, 2021* enables the establishment of the Saskatchewan COVID-19 Immunization Delivery Plan for the province.

The Delivery Plan includes a [list of professions](#) such as physicians, registered nurses, and pharmacists, who traditionally provide immunizations as part of their scope of practice. However, the list also includes other immunizers such as health care students, retired health care professionals, and health care professionals that traditionally would not administer immunizations (e.g., dentists and pharmacy technicians).

The [list](#) included in the plan identifies possible immunizers. Those who wish to participate, and have the appropriate knowledge and training, will deliver COVID-19 immunizations.

SCPP is working with the MoH, Council and our stakeholders to create emergency bylaws to support additional immunizers. As per the information from the Ministry of Health, SCPP wants to make sure extended interns, pharmacy student interns that have completed at least two years of education at the University of Saskatchewan, and

registered pharmacy technicians are informed and prepared as to how they can play a role in the mass immunization program in Saskatchewan.

- **Extended Interns** (graduated/ convocated students that have not yet passed PEBC and registered with SCPP as a member) will be required to complete the full AMC requirements should they choose to participate. This enables them to administer approved COVID-19 vaccines only. Other injections and future influenza immunizations are not included at this time. SCPP will be communicating more information to those extended interns who have AMC status under the emergency bylaws that were enacted in 2020.
- **Hospital Pharmacists** who do not have AMC who want to participate will be required to complete the full AMC requirements should they choose to participate.
- **Pharmacy Student Interns in Third and Fourth Year** (currently in year 3 and 4) will be required to complete the Advanced Method Student Certification (AMSC) training requirements should they choose to become an immunizer for COVID-19.

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MISSION

Protecting the public interest by building excellence in professional pharmacy practice through regulation.

VISION

Quality pharmacy care for a healthier Saskatchewan.

VALUES

Professionalism
Collaboration
Leadership
A Culture of Excellence

GOALS

To have functioning competency assurance and quality improvement programs.
To align pharmacy regulation with modern pharmacy practice.
To empower pharmacy professionals to practise autonomously to deliver safe patient care.
To have enhanced transparency to stakeholders, supported by contemporary governance and management practices.

- **Pharmacy Student Interns going into Third Year** (currently in year 2, going into year 3) will be required to complete Advanced Method Student Certification (AMSC) training requirements should they choose to become an immunizer for COVID-19. Note that the hands-on training can only occur after successful completion of Year 2.
- **Registered Pharmacy Technicians** will be required to complete Advanced Method Technical Certification (AMTC) training requirements should they wish to become an immunizer for COVID-19.

All authorized and correctly trained pharmacist interns, extended interns, and pharmacy technicians can only administer the approved COVID-19 vaccines and no other medications and must do so under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist with AMC in community practice.

It is expected these provisions will be enabled until the end of 2021 and be reassessed by the Ministry to extend as required.

Please continue to check SCPP's [Training and Development](#) page, as it will be updated as training requirements are approved.

CPDPP is preparing the required training for AMTC and AMSC as well as organizing hands-on training dates.

Please continue to check SCPP's [news feed](#), [COVID-19 page](#) and social media channels for updates.

About AMC

In order to provide medications (including COVID-19 vaccines) by injection, SCPP requires that licensed pharmacists maintain current First Aid and CPR Level C certification, complete all required AMC training through CPDPP, and properly declare AMC on their member profiles. A condition "A" on a member's licence means that one or more of these steps have not been completed. See [detailed information here](#).

Registration for COVID-19 Immunization Program

Pharmacy managers were recently sent an email with registration details as well as a Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) survey in preparation for Phase 2 of the Ministry's COVID-19 Vaccine roll-out.

To assist the Ministry in readying pharmacies for public COVID-19 immunizations, pharmacy managers

are asked to read the Saskatchewan Pharmacy COVID-19 Vaccine Registration letter before completing the required registration documents. The letter and all of the documents listed below can be found by [clicking here](#).

All required registration documents should be returned to **the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch by March 15, 2021**. Required registration documents are:

- Pharmacy COVID-19 Vaccine Application Form
- Vaccine Checklist for Refrigerated Vaccine
- Vaccine Checklist for Frozen Vaccine (only required if your pharmacy has existing capacity for frozen vaccine)

Pharmacies are also required to complete the online Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) [COVID-19 Survey](#) Regarding COVID-19 Immunization Program in Community Pharmacies.

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Important notice regarding the provincial online immunization appointment booking system for the public:

The provincial online appointment booking system for use by the public to schedule their immunization appointment will be for SHA immunization clinics only. Community pharmacies and physician offices will not be part of this booking system. Pharmacies should identify options for booking appointments that will best suit their needs.

For questions regarding registering your pharmacy for the COVID-19 Immunization Program, please contact:

- Wayne Stewart:
wayne.stewart@health.gov.sk.ca or 306-787-6970; or
- Joy Bhimji:
joy.bhimji@health.gov.sk.ca or 306-787-8136

Do You Have the Right Tools?

The Public Health Agency of Canada has released a helpful [COVID-19 Immunization Tool Kit](#) for Health Care Providers.

Within the tool kit, health care providers will find links to general information about COVID-19, an overview of authorized vaccines, guidance for managing COVID-19 immunization clinics, an overview of vaccine safety, as well as a number of additional resources such as digital tools, communication materials, and provincial/territorial specific resources.

As new information and resources become available, the tool kit will be updated.

Your Help Needed

With the recent announcement by the Chief Medical Health Officer of Saskatchewan authorizing pharmacists with AMC to administer the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19

vaccines, SCPP would like to remind members that the SHA continues to seek individuals from a wide range of backgrounds to support the pandemic response, including retired professionals and recent or upcoming graduates in health care professions, including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. As pharmacies prepare for phase 2 of the provincial immunization program there will also be a need for support within community practice.

Those who wish to help are asked to fill out the SHA [COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Pre-Screening Form](#).

The SHA will contact you directly if your services are required. If the services you are asked to provide require you to be licensed, then you can contact SCPP to determine whether you qualify under our emergency licensure bylaws. For more information, please see the Emergency Licensure Policy and application form. There will also be opportunities to help in roles that do not require an active licence with SCPP.

For more information, please see the SHA's [Become Involved](#) page and

SCPP's [Emergency Licensure](#) page.

Additional Resources

- The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Canada recently published a resource to assist pharmacies in preventing errors with COVID-19 vaccines. Please find the [bulletin here](#).
- The "PHAC: COVID-19 Vaccine Planning for Immunization Clinics" webinar that took place on March 1, 2021 is now available online. Please find the [presentation slides and recording here](#).
- [Vaccine Storage, Handling and Transport Guidelines](#)
- [Refrigerator and Temperature Monitoring Equipment Requirements](#) ■



Council Highlights

Feb. 10-11, 2021

Councillors' Environmental Scans

Each Councillor is provided with an opportunity to discuss emerging issues arising since the last Council meeting. The following issues were raised:

- Hospital pharmacies have had limited involvement in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines as it is being organized by Public Health. However, some hospital pharmacies are involved in storage. Long-term care facilities residents and staff and COVID-19 unit hospital staff have had their first dose of vaccine in some areas of the province.
- Council members report seeing an increase in the use of antimicrobials for COVID-19 positive patients in some pockets of the province. Several patients are being prescribed antibiotics, when only about seven per cent of patients have a concurrent bacterial infection. There is education in progress and modification of admission order sets to try and correct the unnecessary prescribing.
- There has been interest from pharmacists wishing to help with COVID-19 immunizations.
- There were concerns raised about pharmacists not being able to give COVID-19 results to patients.
- Councillors have received feedback for the new pharmacy manager policies and training. Although SCPP has not formally announced any



timelines with respect to training, some community pharmacists have reported feeling overwhelmed with the timing of rolling out pharmacy manager training in the midst of a pandemic.

- The Harm Reduction training has been well-received.
- Patients continue to get flu immunizations at pharmacies, many pharmacies are seeing higher numbers than previous years, and flu vaccine supply has not been an issue.
- Community pharmacies continue to see drug shortages.
- Exceptional Drug Status (EDS) phone and call-back times can be very lengthy at times and continues to be an issue of concern.
- An environmental scan shows some provinces are including pharmacy technicians in the administration of COVID-19 immunizations.
- The Alberta College of Pharmacy has a mandatory course regarding "Protecting Patients from Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct."
- There are reports of pharmacies not following the Patient Identification policy. SCPP has been made aware of one case where harm occurred as a result of the policy not being followed.

Registrar's Report

The Registrar provided a report to Council which included the following highlights:

- Numbers as of December 31, 2020 show that pharmacies delivered a significant number of flu doses and a significant increase over prior years.
- The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) conducted a Pneumovax audit and found several concerns reported including unprofessional communication, patients not meeting criteria, and giving vaccines for home injection. SCPP will be sending letters of concern for follow-up.
- SCPP continues to meet with the Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA), the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS), the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association (SRNA), PAS and the SHA on a twice-weekly basis to discuss urgent COVID-19 matters. The first social media campaign about Public Health Orders showed great success. The next campaign will focus on vaccine hesitancy.

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- National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) Updates:
 - ▶ The Culture of Professionalism working group is back up and running and a draft white paper has been completed. Next steps include feedback from PRAs, Councils and broad stakeholder consultation.
 - ▶ Compounding Competencies have been reviewed by the NAPRA Board and next steps will include broad stakeholder consultation.
- SCPP contributed to a letter to the Prime Minister regarding drug shortage concerns.
- PEBC Updates:
 - ▶ 59 of the 2020 graduating students passed their PEBC examinations.
 - ▶ Approximately 75 per cent pass rate.
 - ▶ SCPP has registered all those students who applied to date.
 - ▶ PEBC is on track for the May exam.
- Harm Reduction: 743 of 2141 members have completed the harm reduction training so far, with approximately half of that number opting for the advanced training option.
- The requirement for criminal record checks was postponed by Council for the 2020 -2021 licensure year due to COVID-19 providing members the entire licensure year to complete this requirement. As of Feb 2, 779 of 1756 pharmacists (or 36 per cent) have submitted their E-PIC certificates and 136 of 385 (or 35 per cent) pharmacy technicians have submitted their E-PIC certificates.

2021 Budget

The Registrar provided a report of the 2021 budget which Council approved:



- Predicts a surplus of \$35,556.
- Maintains the \$500,000 catastrophic discipline fund.
- Maintains policy of 50 per cent administration costs held in restricted reserves.
- Requests to potentially use \$474,273 from unrestricted reserves to support the strategic plan.
- Strategic priorities include:
 - ▶ Obtaining a contracted expert in Competency Assurance and continuing adult education to lead the working group (strategic goal 1 and 2).
 - ▶ Supporting QIRs and Field Officer Inspections with the addition of a Field Officer (strategic goal 1)
 - ▶ Supporting resources for Compounding Standards roll out.
 - ▶ Supporting 425 pharmacies, new store openings, renovations, and follow-ups from QIRs.
 - ▶ Providing HR support within the office including supporting staff in the first year of the new performance management system.
 - ▶ Supporting a contract pharmacist to aid Complaints and Discipline workload (strategic goal 4).
 - ▶ Supporting Professional Autonomy work for 2021 including the Pharmacy Manager Framework (strategic goal 3).
- ▶ Supporting legal work on strategic goals 2 and 3 to support the policy and legislation unit and other work (e.g., NAPRA Cross Jurisdictional Issues).
- ▶ Supporting finalization of medSask minor ailments updates as well as refreshing and updating Level 1 Prescriptive Authority and Minor Ailment Basics training.
- Other priorities include:
 - ▶ Continuing with all statutory obligations and programs.
 - ▶ Continuing the SCP Centennial Scholarship.
 - ▶ Providing funding from reserves to support IT improvements.
 - ▶ Supporting one-time purchase of equipment to support communications and improving engagement of members and the public (strategic goal 4).
 - ▶ Sustaining committee activity and supports a new working committee to update IPG/ATA assessment documents.
 - ▶ Supporting complaints and discipline activities with 10-12 hearings planned for 2021.
 - ▶ Continuing governance and all operational plans.

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Finance Committee Report

- Council / Committee expenses were considered for review in 2021.
- Council approved amending SCPP's Administrative Bylaws for replacing the fee schedule to reflect 2021-2022 licensing and permit fees. Please see the new [Fee Schedule on Page 12](#).

COVID-19 Updates

Note that the COVID-19 response in the province is moving at a rapid pace and as such, the below updates are for Council meeting reporting purposes only.

- **COVID-19 Test Results:** Council approved draft emergency bylaws for stakeholder consultation to enable pharmacists to provide COVID-19 test results to patients. SCPP will review stakeholder feedback and provide to Council for approval at the next Council meeting in March whereby the emergency bylaws will be submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Stay tuned for further updates with respect to reporting and documentation requirements from the MoH/SHA.

- NAPRA has scheduled the COVID-19 vaccine as Schedule II within the National Drug Schedules (NDS). The SCPP will align with NAPRA's recommendation to schedule the COVID-19 vaccine as Schedule II. This authorizes licensed pharmacists and extended interns with AMC to administer the COVID-19 vaccine via Part L: Clause 9(c) of the SCPP Regulatory Bylaws. Note that new emergency bylaws, when approved, will also enable pharmacy students and pharmacy technicians to administer the COVID-19 vaccines.

Other matters:

- **Nominating Committee Update:** Council approved two recommendations to the

Administrative Bylaws from the Nominating Committee:

- ▶ Section 8(4) will be updated to include: That those members who are on a committee or working group of an advocacy body or organization must resign from the committee or working group, upon successfully obtaining a seat on Council, with no wash-out period required.
- ▶ Section 9(5) will be updated to reflect that a maximum of three candidates will be brought forward for election.
- **Election update:** Nominations for election to Council for Urban 1, Rural and Remote 1, Rural and Remote 2 and Hospital Pharmacy Technician opened on the first Wednesday of December and closed on the third Wednesday of January. There were numerous nominees and as such SCPP is currently holding its first online election which commenced March 3. Communication went out to all voting members on the first Wednesday of March to announce the opening of the secure online election platform. The election closes on the last Wednesday of March.
- **Regulatory Reform (NIRO and MoH):** Council approved the suggested blanket regulatory updates which the NIRO group had been working on with the MoH to improve problematic areas of template legislation. SCPP is ahead of the curve on many of the suggested reforms as its strategic goals are geared towards modernizing its regulatory oversight.
- **Inducements:** Discussions continue around inducements and remains on Council radar.
- **Compounding Report:** Compounding Inspector and Field Officer Brittany Sharkey presented a compounding report to Council.

- ▶ As of December 3, 2021, all pharmacies had provided compounding declarations to SCPP. Overview: Level A = 314; Level B = 91; Level C = 3; Sterile Non-Hazardous = 6; Sterile Hazardous = 0
- ▶ A survey was sent to pharmacy managers to assess progress and challenges in meeting the NAPRA Compounding Standards. Of the 131 respondents, results showed that 66.4 per cent of respondents have identified that their pharmacy requires a renovation to meet compliance, 25.2 per cent have begun planning their renovations, and 55 per cent of respondents stated that they were on track to be compliant by the Dec. 31, 2021 deadline.
- ▶ Managers reported that COVID-19 has presented an increase in pharmacy workload and an inability to devote time to work through implementation of the standards. Some pharmacies have expressed both difficulties with obtaining contractors to complete renovations, as well as concerns with bringing in contractors to complete renovations and increasing the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

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- ▶ The NAPRA Compounding Standards were approved by the NAPRA Board in 2016. SCPP created a Compounding Working Group and in December 2017 Council approved the NAPRA Compounding Standards.
- ▶ An environmental scan of other provinces highlighted that SCPP's current compounding standards compliance deadline of December 31, 2021 is in line with other provinces.
- ▶ Although more than half of pharmacies indicated they would be able to meet the compliance deadline of Dec. 31, 2021, Council is mindful of additional workload in pharmacies during 2021 with the roll-out of COVID-19 immunization among other potential COVID-19 supports. As such, Council encourages pharmacies to continue to work toward the December 31, 2021 deadline, however they have passed a motion for a final extension to Aug. 31, 2022.

This additional timeline will help offset lost time due to COVID-19 pressures. Council wishes to remind members that the NAPRA compounding standards are critical to provide training, education, and support to ensure patient and staff safety when providing and preparing compounded medications.

- ▶ SCPP will conduct regular surveys and report to Council throughout 2021 to assess the progress of pharmacies in meeting the standards.
- **Council Education:** Kelly Kizlyk with medSask delivered a presentation on behalf of the **Medication Assessment Centre Interprofessional Opioid Pain Service (MAC iOPS)**. MAC iOPS aims to optimize pain control and quality of life for individuals living with chronic pain and reduce the risk of opioid-related harms, among others.

The presentation tied in with some of the work Council has done over the past several years such as training and education around

exempted low-dose codeine products, the harm reduction primer and the advanced harm reduction education programs. It also supports future expansion of training and education on opioid stewardship.

Saskatchewan residents with chronic pain or who take prescription opioids regularly can be referred to MAC iOPS. For more information, [please click here](#).

- **medSask Minor Ailments Updates:** medSask continues their work on updating and modernizing all 27 Minor Ailments. As of the end of 2020 there were eight minor ailments pending review. Two more (GERD and Hormonal Contraception) have been completed and approved by Council, leaving six left to update, which will be completed on or before the June Council meeting. Note that all pharmacists requiring the minor ailment guidelines must now access them through the Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Program ([SHIRP](#)).

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• COMPASS Report:

- ▶ From Feb. 1, 2019 to Aug. 20, 2020, there were 359 incidents associated with patient harm reported and 342 of these were included in the bi-annual MedSCIM (Medication Safety Culture Indicator Matrix) analysis by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP).
- ▶ 271 of the 346 were deemed to be fully complete with the details of the medication incident clear and potential contributing factors were suggested, 71 were deemed to be semi-complete, and four were deemed to be not complete where details of the incident remained unclear.
- ▶ Two-thirds of the time reporters went beyond simply resolving medication incidents as they occur and offered solutions to identified system flaws.
- ▶ 23 of the reports displayed a "blame and shame" culture.
- ▶ Overall, COMPASS pharmacies continue to demonstrate many areas of strength with respect to their patient safety culture. Most incidents associated with patient harm were reported with a sufficient level of detail to describe what medication incident occurred and also specified potential contributing factors to the incidents. Additionally, the majority of COMPASS pharmacies demonstrate a "generative" approach and considered what system-factors may have allowed the incidents to occur and offered solutions to the identified problems.

Maturity of Culture of Medication Safety	2019		2020	
	No. of Incidents	Frequency	No. of Incidents	Frequency
Grade D: Pathological	51	20.0%	23	6.7%
Grade C: Reactive	120	47.1%	52	15.0%
Grade B: Calculative	39	15.3%	49	14.2%
Grade A: Generative	45	17.6%	222	64.1%

A significant improvement was also seen in the maturity of culture to medication safety, where the number of Level A incidents increased from 18% in 2019 to 64% in 2020.

- ▶ In comparison to the 2019 report, COMPASS pharmacies have transitioned towards a "generative" culture with more "fully complete" reporting of medication incidents. However, it is difficult to presume a true trend based on only two analyses. Additional data is required to conclude whether COMPASS pharmacies are indeed on the right track.
- ▶ regarding identifying the causal / contributing factors and developing system-based solutions to deal with the incident.
- ▶ Many pharmacy staff do not seem to be aware of the need to notify the primary practitioner when they have administered medications.
- ▶ Many pharmacy managers are not aware that they need to do regular PIP audits, therefore, they have not been performing the audits and ensuring that no unauthorized PIP accesses are occurring.
- **Field Operations Report:** Observations from QIRs include the following:
 - ▶ QIRs show deficiencies in incomplete QI plans and lack of regular QI meetings.
 - ▶ 27 pharmacies have not started their first (Medication Safety Self Assessment) MSSA. Other pharmacies have completed an MSSA but are overdue to complete their second MSSA.
 - ▶ Pharmacies report the details of the incident well, but deficiencies were noted
- **Virtual versus In-Person QIRs:** Council passed a motion to instate a fee effective April 1, 2021 to recover costs for in-person QIRs, when it is determined that a virtual inspection is appropriate, but the pharmacy is unable or unwilling to comply. ■

Law Enforcement Alert

A current criminal drug trend occurring in Calgary, Alberta could make it way to Saskatchewan. In Alberta there have been 40 pharmacy robberies in the last month with liquid Codeine being targeted.

Saskatoon Police Services alerted SCPP to this trend in order for pharmacies to enhance security precautions, if necessary.

SCPP Membership & Permit Fees 2021-2022

Note: These fees are based on the SCPP Administration Bylaws. In the case of conflict between the bylaws and this document, the bylaws will preside.

*Fees subject to change April 1, 2022	NET	GST 5%	TOTAL
Membership - April 1, 2020			
Practising Membership - Pharmacists	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 1,386.00
Non-Practising Membership - Pharmacists	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,260.00
Associate Membership - Pharmacists	\$ 213.00	\$ 10.65	\$ 223.65
Retired Membership - Pharmacists	\$ 104.00	\$ 5.20	\$ 109.20
Practising Membership - Technicians	\$ 793.00	\$ 39.65	\$ 832.65
Non-Practising Membership Technicians	\$ 663.00	\$ 33.15	\$ 696.15
Associate Membership - Technicians	\$ 105.00	\$ 5.25	\$ 110.25
Retired Membership - Technicians	\$ 52.00	\$ 2.60	\$ 54.60
Appraisal Training, Assessment & JP Exam - April 1, 2020			
Appraisal Training Fee - Pharmacists	\$ 342.00	\$ 17.10	\$ 359.10
Assessment Fee - Pharmacists	\$ 850.00	\$ 42.50	\$ 892.50
Jurisprudence Exam Fee - Pharmacists	\$ 305.00	\$ 15.25	\$ 320.25
Appraisal Training Fee - Technicians	\$ 172.00	\$ 8.60	\$ 180.60
Assessment Fee - Technicians	\$ 425.00	\$ 21.25	\$ 446.25
Jurisprudence Exam Fee - Technicians	\$ 305.00	\$ 15.25	\$ 320.25
Registration & Reinstatement Fees - April 1, 2020			
Reinstatement Fee - Pharmacists	\$ 340.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 357.00
Registration - Pharmacists	\$ 310.00	\$ 15.50	\$ 325.50
Registration - Canadian Out-of-Province and ATA Candidate	\$ 808.00	\$ 40.40	\$ 848.40
Registration - Locum Tenens	\$ 315.00	\$ 15.75	\$ 330.75
Registration - Dispensing Physician	\$ 932.00	\$ 46.60	\$ 978.60
Reinstatement Fee - Technicians	\$ 178.00	\$ 8.90	\$ 186.90
Registration - Technicians	\$ 310.00	\$ 15.50	\$ 325.50
Registration - Out-of-Province Technicians	\$ 410.00	\$ 20.50	\$ 430.50
Intern Registration Fee - April 1, 2020			
Intern Registration Fee - Pharmacists	\$ 166.00	\$ 8.30	\$ 174.30
Intern Registration Fee - Technicians	\$ 84.00	\$ 4.20	\$ 88.20
Late Payment Penalty Fee - April 1, 2020			
Late Payment Penalty - Pharmacy	\$ 395.00	\$ 19.75	\$ 414.75
Late Payment Penalty - Pharmacist	\$ 389.00	\$ 19.45	\$ 408.45
Late Payment Penalty - Technicians	\$ 238.00	\$ 11.90	\$ 249.90
Pharmacy Permit Fees - April 1, 2020			
Pharmacy Permit			
Basic	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 1,995.00
COMPASS Surcharge	\$ 500.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 525.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 2,520.00
Satellite Pharmacy Permit	\$ 1,155.00	\$ 57.75	\$ 1,212.75
Permit Amendment	\$ 365.00	\$ 18.25	\$ 383.25
Lock & Leave Permit	\$ 492.00	\$ 24.60	\$ 516.60
Subsequent Pre-Opening Inspection(s)	\$ 830.00	\$ 41.50	\$ 871.50
Quality Improvement Review (unable/unwilling to conduct virtually)	Cost Recovery		
Fees: Registration and Other - April 1, 2020			
Pre-Registration Application Fee for Non-Members	\$ 206.00	\$ 10.30	\$ 216.30
Letter of Standing Fee	\$ 107.00	\$ 5.35	\$ 112.35
Permit Failure to File Fee After Seven (7) SCPP Business Days - April 1, 2020			
Manager Change	\$100/day	\$ 5.00	\$105/day
Proprietor Change	\$100/day	\$ 5.00	\$105/day
Ownership Change	\$100/day	\$ 5.00	\$105/day
Trade Name Change	\$100/day	\$ 5.00	\$105/day
Director Changes	\$100/day	\$ 5.00	\$105/day
Location Changes	\$100/day	\$ 5.00	\$105/day
Expense Reimbursement - February 13, 2020			
Per Diem	\$ 245.00		\$ 245.00
Meal Allowance	\$ 130.00		\$ 130.00
Travel per KM	\$ 0.495		\$ 0.495

Reminders



Council Elections

Members are now able to vote for nominees vying for key positions on Council. New this year is SSCP's online election platform.

Bios, photos, as well as resumes and responses to the Nominating Committee Questionnaire for each candidate, are available on the online election portal as of Wednesday, March 3.

Members will be able to access the Council election platform through their [member profiles](#). A notification has been sent out to all eligible practising and non-practising members that the election portal is open, including information on how to access the portal.

Voting closes on the fourth Wednesday of March at 10:00 am.

Compounding Compliance

Following the Feb. 11, 2021 SSCP Council meeting, Council approved extending the deadline for meeting compliance with the NAPRA Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding from Dec. 31, 2021 to Aug. 31, 2022.

SCPP Council made this decision based on the effects of COVID-19 on pharmacies during 2020 and the anticipated additional workload in pharmacies during 2021 with the roll-out of COVID-19 immunization among other potential COVID-19 supports. Pharmacies are encouraged to continue to work toward the December 31, 2021 deadline.

In 2019, Council made the decision that all pharmacies must meet the requirements for Level A non-sterile

compounding as outlined by the NAPRA compounding standards at minimum.

The decision was reached after the input of all Councillors and a review of the requirements under *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*, Section 23 and a review of the requirements set by other pharmacy regulatory authorities in Canada.

Authorized practices 23(1) No person other than a licensed pharmacist, licensed pharmacy technician, or intern practising under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist or a licensed pharmacy technician, may prepare, compound, dispense or sell drugs in Saskatchewan.

Compounding is an authorized practice that has been granted to pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns under the supervision of a pharmacist or licensed pharmacy technician.

The expectation is that the public should be able to receive a Level A compound at any pharmacy in Saskatchewan in a safe manner that meets the practice standards. SSCP continues to hear reports of patient delays in receiving medication for simple compounds as pharmacies are referring Level A compounds to other pharmacies.

For more information on compounding and the NAPRA compounding standards, please review the [CompEX](#) (compounding excellence) section of the SSCP website.

MSSAs Required for Permit Renewal

Most pharmacies have completed their first MSSA.

As per the SSCP Regulatory Bylaws, Part I, Section (12) an MSSA must be completed every two years, therefore most pharmacy MSSA reports are now due to be repeated.

Some pharmacies have yet to submit an MSSA and SSCP staff will be reaching out to those pharmacy managers

individually to meet compliance with the bylaws.

During the 2020-2021 permit renewal season, pharmacy managers that had not completed their MSSA were provided guidance that all outstanding MSSAs are due by April 1, 2021. SSCP wishes to remind pharmacy managers that MSSAs must be completed every two years and are part of the requirements for permitting a pharmacy as per the bylaws.

The main benefit of repeat assessments is that they act as a comparison, in order to identify the areas where improvements have been made since the last MSSA was completed and which areas still need improvements.

If you have not already done so, start preparing your pharmacy team for the completion of the next MSSA to ensure you are prepared for permit renewal season beginning in September. More information regarding the completion of the MSSA can be found in the SSCP [COMPASS Manual](#).

Privacy Officer Requirements

Every pharmacy manager applying for a new proprietary pharmacy permit or a proprietary pharmacy permit amendment is responsible for designating a privacy officer.

The designated privacy officer can be either the pharmacy manager or another practising pharmacist employed at the pharmacy. A privacy officer can only represent one pharmacy and may not be appointed if they are a designated privacy officer at another pharmacy.

The designated privacy officer must complete the required training and certification and must re-certify every three years. Each newly designated privacy officer has until the expiration of the current permit to complete their mandatory training and certification.

These requirements can be found in [section 8 of Part I](#) of The Regulatory Bylaws.



Licence Renewal Season

Before You Renew

Malpractice Insurance

It is the responsibility of practising members to meet the [bylaw requirements](#) for malpractice insurance each year. The insurance policy must be applicable to the membership year applied for. Members will fill in the details of their malpractice insurance within the online application for renewal. Non-practising, associate and retired members are not required to hold malpractice insurance.



Criminal Record Checks

SCPP wishes to remind Practising and Non-practising members that they are to provide an Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC) to SCPP by March 31, 2021 to meet the requirements of SCPP bylaws and Council policy. Note that the E-PIC is a condition for licensure and as such you will not be able to renew your membership for 2021-2022 without your E-PIC.

Once you have completed your E-PIC with [Sterling Backcheck](#), you will receive two (2) emails.



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The first email will be a notification that your criminal record check is complete and will contain your results. This is not the certificate. The certificate will be sent in a second email.

Within 24 hours of receiving a “clear” result, you will receive a second email with instructions on how to access your official certificate. The certificate will be titled “Canadian Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check” and is the only certificate accepted by SCPP, which you will need to upload into your member profile. If you receive a “not clear” result, please upload those results and the SCPP office will contact you to discuss.

Please see a [Troubleshooting Guide](#) on page 19.

Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Requirement

To meet the continuing competency / education requirements of the SCPP bylaws, members must have acquired and logged 15 CEUs between April 1 of the previous membership year and June 1 of the current year.

The [Professional Development Log](#) for the Saskatchewan pharmacists learning portfolio is available on the Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacy



Professionals ([CPDPP](#)) website. The paper log is not required to be submitted to SCPP; a declaration will be available in the online renewal application.

Please note that Associate and Retired members do not need to meet the continuing competency requirement, and that non-practising members may wish to maintain their CEUs if they plan to convert to a practising membership.

Harm Reduction Training

Practising Members (pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) are reminded that the mandatory Harm Reduction Training is to be completed by May 31, 2021. The mandatory [harm reduction primer](#) is a condition for licensure, meaning this must be completed in order to complete your renewal, and provides a brief overview of trauma-informed care, stigma, the need for culturally safe practices and the recently updated Saskatchewan Opioid Agonist Therapy Standards.

The [advanced harm reduction](#) training contains all of the mandatory primer content plus detailed management of Opioid Use Disorder and the therapeutics of Opioid Agonist Therapy. Members do not have to do the primer training if they choose to do the advanced training.



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	Required-by Date	How to Submit	Applicable to
Malpractice Insurance	By renewal	Declaration during renewal	Practising Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
Criminal Record Check (E-PIC)	March 31, 2021	Upload E-PIC Certificate to your member profile	Practising and Non-Practising Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians, and Dispensing Physicians
15 Continuing Education Units	From April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2021	Declaration during renewal	Practising (required) and Non-Practising (recommended) Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
Harm Reduction Primer or Advanced Harm Reduction	May 31, 2021	Information provided by CPDPP	Practising Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
Advanced Method Certification (AMC)	By renewal if a member wishes to administer medications by injections and other means and obtain a licence without conditions	Declaration during renewal	Practising Pharmacists only
Exempted Codeine Products Training	Only required for pharmacists and pharmacist interns who choose to sell exempted codeine products as a Schedule II drug	Information provided by CPDPP	Practising Pharmacists and Pharmacist Interns only

Advanced Method Certification (AMC) and First Aid / CPR Requirements

This requirement applies only to those pharmacists who wish to administer medications by injection or other routes. In order to provide medications by injection and other routes, SSCP requires that you:

1. maintain current First Aid and CPR Level C certification;



2. complete all required stage II [CCCEP](#) accredited training plus the Saskatchewan-specific and hands-on modules available through [CPDPP](#) and the Canadian Paediatric Society ([EPIC](#)); and

3. properly declare AMC during licence renewal.

A practising licence with the word "Conditions" and an "A" will be issued to those who have not fulfilled one or more of the three requirements as stated above. These members may not provide medications by injection or other routes until such time as they have completed all requirements.

Ready to Renew

Available early April for the 2021-2022 Licence Year

Log in, click Renew Online and Complete Form

Once members have confirmed they have completed all requirements above, they are then ready to log into their member profiles to complete the Membership Renewal Application Form. Forgotten passwords can be retrieved by clicking the "Forgot Password" link on the log-in screen. Please be reminded that memberships not renewed by June 30 are terminated. Members planning to terminate their memberships are asked to email SSCP at SCPPRegistration@saskpharm.ca.



Members are encouraged to renew early to aid in processing time for obtaining their new licence. Note that applications will only be approved upon receipt of all requirements and fees and late fees apply if renewal is not completed by the June 1 deadline.

Renewal Fees

Fees may be paid by MasterCard, Visa or cheque.

If paying by credit card in the online application form, select PAY NOW. If paying by cheque, select INVOICE ME and mail the cheque and invoice to the SSCP office. Applications will only be approved upon receipt of all requirements and fees.

For further information, clarification, or assistance in completing your online renewal, contact the SSCP office at SCPPRegistration@saskpharm.ca or call 306-584-2292.



Save the Date – AMC Workshops and Refreshers

CPDPP is hosting live workshops for those looking to obtain AMC, AMTC and AMSC and the injection refresher training. More [details and registration](#) is available at CPDPP.

The [Advanced Course: Harm Reduction and Opioid Agonist Therapy workshop](#) is coming up on March 20. If you are unable to make the live virtual session, you will be able to watch the recorded version shortly after. No separate registration is required. See agenda on following pages.

HARM REDUCTION AND OPIOID AGONIST THERAPY WORKSHOP

MARCH 20, 2021



WELCOME

8:30am – 9:35am



Moderator **Kelly Kizlyk**, Pharmacist, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER/ STORY TELLER

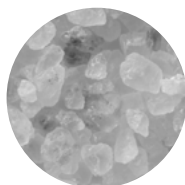
Tala Tootoosis



Reflect on a presenter's lived experiences with substance use disorder and recovery to better support others living with substance use disorder.

CRYSTAL METH AWARENESS AND RESOURCES

9:35am – 10:35am



Acting Sergeant **Greg Pozniak**, Saskatoon Police Service
Katy Windl, Saskatoon Regional Pharmacist, Indigenous Services Canada, Government of Canada

Understand and identify crystal methamphetamine usage and available resources in Saskatchewan.

BREAK

10:35am – 10:45am

TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE

10:45am – 11:15am



Glenda Watson, Mental Health & Addiction Advisor, Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority. Inc

Consider the impact of culture, trauma, and stigma on substance use disorder.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

11:15am – 11:45am



Susanne Nicolay, Clinical Coordinator & Nursing Lead, Wellness Wheel

Discuss the impact of culture and stigma on substance use disorder. Describe the Wellness Wheel project and strategies to integrate cultural responsiveness framework into practice.

HARM REDUCTION AND OPIOID AGONIST THERAPY WORKSHOP



LUNCH

11:45am– 12:30pm

COMMUNICATION

12:30pm – 1:15pm



Barbra Papp, *Addiction Counselor Degree Senior, Concurrent Disorders Program –Saskatchewan Health Authority*
Michelle Cleland – *Community Mental Health Nurse, Concurrent Disorders Program – Saskatchewan Health Authority*

Discuss approaches to facilitate positive healthcare provider and client communication and collaborative care.

ADDICTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY

1:15pm – 2:15pm



Cameron Symon *Senior Program Consultant, Community Care Branch, Ministry of Health*
Sheila Moore *Addiction Nurse, Addiction Services – Saskatchewan Health Authority*
Tom Laughton *Nurse, Rapid Access Addiction Medication Clinic (Saskatoon)*

Describe transitions in care and community resources for people with substance use disorder.

BREAK

2:15pm – 2:30pm

OAT CASE-BASED PANEL DISCUSSION & FAQ

2:30pm – 4:30pm




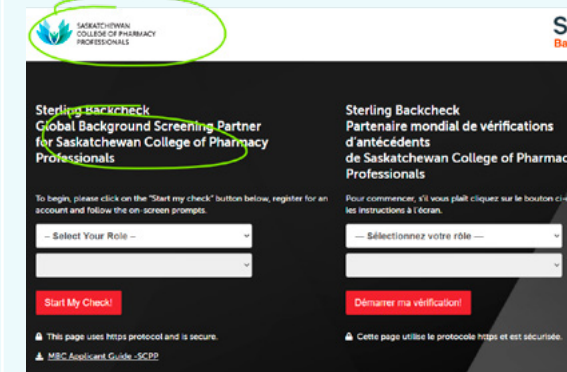
Jacqueline Myers *Pharmacist, RxFiles Academic Detailing*
Katelyn Halpape *Assistant Professor, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan*
Pharmacist/ Physicians/ Pharmacy Technician Panel TBA

Integrate opioid agonist therapy into pharmacy practice, using a case-based discussion. Responses and solutions to frequently experienced issues when providing OAT in the pharmacy.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Troubleshooting Criminal Record Checks

SCPP has observed a number of issues as members attempt to submit their Enhanced Police Information Checks (E-PICs) through their member profiles. Please see the below issues and the accompanying solutions.

Issue	Solution
Incorrect certificate submitted	<p>Ensure the certificate you submit is called "Canadian Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check." This is the only document accepted by SCPP and instructions to obtain it from Sterling Backcheck will arrive in a second email after you have completed your Criminal Record Check (CRC) process.</p> 
Document blurry or unreadable	<p>Submit your E-PIC in the original PDF format in which you downloaded it. Photos, scans, JPGs, PNGs or any other non-PDF formats may all result in your criminal record check not being up to date on your member profile.</p>
Incorrect type of check completed	<p>The correct CRC starts at the SCPP-Sterling Backcheck special landing page linked on the SCPP website and all correspondence sent. Completing a CRC through another source or without using the SCPP specific landing page of the Sterling Backcheck website will not be accepted.</p>  <p>You will be contacted if you have uploaded the wrong type of CRC to your member profile and will be required to obtain the correct one with the applicable fee.</p>
Missing certificate or certificate not received	<p>In order to obtain a copy of your official E-PIC certificate you will need to obtain the serial number from it. Contact the Sterling applicant support line at 1-877-455-6730 to obtain the serial number.</p> <p>NOTE: You will be asked a series of questions to verify your identity prior to providing you with the serial number of your certificate.</p> <p>Once you have your certificate serial number you may visit www.backcheck.net/authenticate/ to obtain another copy of the certificate.</p>

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Issue	Solution
Invite to complete CRC has expired	Simply visit the SCPP Sterling Backcheck landing page and complete your criminal record check.
Forgotten Sterling Backcheck login details	Contact the Sterling applicant support line at 1-877-455-6730 to reset your email/password.
Member resides outside of Canada	Contact the SCPP Registrations department at: scppregistration@saskpharm.ca or call 306-584-2292.
Criminal record check is "deferred" or "inconclusive"	Contact the SCPP Registrations department at: scppregistration@saskpharm.ca or call 306-584-2292.
Unable to verify identity through Sterling Backcheck's process	<p>You will be referred to a Canada Post postal office where a member of their staff is authorized to verify your identity using your government issued photo ID.</p> <p>If you are unable to complete this process of identification verification through Canada Post, please contact the SCPP Registrations department at scppregistration@saskpharm.ca or call 306-584-2292.</p>
Inaccurate information noted on E-PIC	You have 30 days to correct the inaccuracies with Sterling Backcheck before you will be required to complete the process over again (with the applicable fee). Contact the Sterling applicant support line at 1-877-455-6730 for assistance.
Concerns about privacy	<p>Sterling Backcheck serves government agencies, major retailers, banks, and tech companies who have the highest standards for protecting personal information. Please see their privacy policies here.</p> <p>Members are also able to call Sterling Backcheck's applicant support line at 1-877-455-6730 to discuss any concerns about privacy.</p>
Result of criminal record check is "NOT CLEAR"	<p>A member of the SCPP registrations department will contact you.</p> <p>NOTE: A "NOT CLEAR" check does not automatically preclude any member from obtaining a licence to practise. Please see the Criminal Record Check Policy Statement and FAQs for more information.</p>

Safety Attitudes Questionnaire – We Want to Hear from You!

The Safety Attitudes Questionnaire (SAQ) link is available starting as of March 1, 2021. The SAQ has been provided to all community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians for completion.

This is the second administration of this survey and it will be used to determine the advancement of the safety culture in Saskatchewan community pharmacies since the last time it was administered in November 2018.

The SAQ is the most commonly used and validated tool for assessing safety culture.

The SAQ assesses six main factors (teamwork climate, job satisfaction, perceptions of management, safety climate, working conditions, and stress recognition) with approximately 40 questions. The intent of the SAQ is to obtain data regarding the current attitudes of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

Since this is the second time it is being administered SCPP is looking to determine the advancement in the culture of safety within community pharmacies. ISMP Canada is partnering with SCPP to analyze the responses from the SAQ .

We encourage all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to participate.



Bylaw and Policy Updates

Therapeutic Substitutions and Pharmacist Assessment Records (PARs) – Emergency Provisions

Two bylaw changes have been made to Part K of the SCPP's Regulatory Bylaws to protect the health and safety of the public during the COVID-19 pandemic and other potential future emergency situations.

Similar to previous Emergency Exemptions for Prescribing Authority, these bylaw provisions are enacted at the discretion of the SCPP Registrar and must be carried out within the terms and conditions specified by the Registrar, as per Council policy. When enacted, these amendments permit:

- Pharmacists to prescribe therapeutic substitutions for a prescribed medication without a Collaborative Practice (Prescribing) Agreement in extraordinary circumstances (not enacted at this time); and



- The temporary suspension of the requirement for Pharmacists who prescribe (or Pharmacy Technicians working with the Pharmacists) to fax Pharmacist Assessment Records (PARs) to primary practitioners (excluding drugs monitored through the Prescription Review Program and therapeutic substitution PARs). (currently enacted)

When authorized by the Registrar, these amendments will help ensure patients receive their medications in a timely manner and will reduce workloads in primary practitioner offices by minimizing the excessive number of faxes and phone calls during the pandemic.

Members are encouraged to monitor the SCPP website and other communications should the Registrar enact these exemptions.



Failure to File Fee

Since April 1, 2019 a fee, payable by the proprietor of the pharmacy can be assessed for failing to file information required by SCPP on any proprietary pharmacy permit.

This includes failure to file the required information to ensure the permit information is accurate and up to date at all times. Failure to meet these information requirements can result in an invalid permit and closure of the pharmacy and/or discipline.

Pharmacy proprietors, or corporate officials or managers on their behalf, must notify SCPP as soon as possible of any changes to the pharmacy that might impact the permit. These changes include, but are not limited to:

- changes to the proprietor or trade name,
- changes as to the pharmacy manager,
- changes to the ownership including shareholdings,
- changes to the directors, and
- changes to the location or address.

SCPP has noted concerns with permit amendments and applications including:

- Application forms which were incomplete or not received;
- Applications which were completed by someone other than the pharmacy manager;
- Corporation documents not received;
- Director requirements not met;
- Permit and/or COMPASS fees unpaid;
- Privacy Officer and/or COMPASS QI coordinator training not completed as per legislative requirements;
- CPhIR Data Sharing Agreement not submitted to ISMP; and
- Other requirements pursuant to The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act, SS 1996, c P-9.1, the SCPP Regulatory Bylaws and SCPP standards and guideline.

If changes are made throughout the year and SCPP is not notified of the changes, an internal review may be conducted with the Failure to File Fee being assessed retroactively until the appropriate documents are provided to SCPP. The permit application will only be approved upon completion of all application requirements and payment of all fees including the Failure to File Fee (if required).

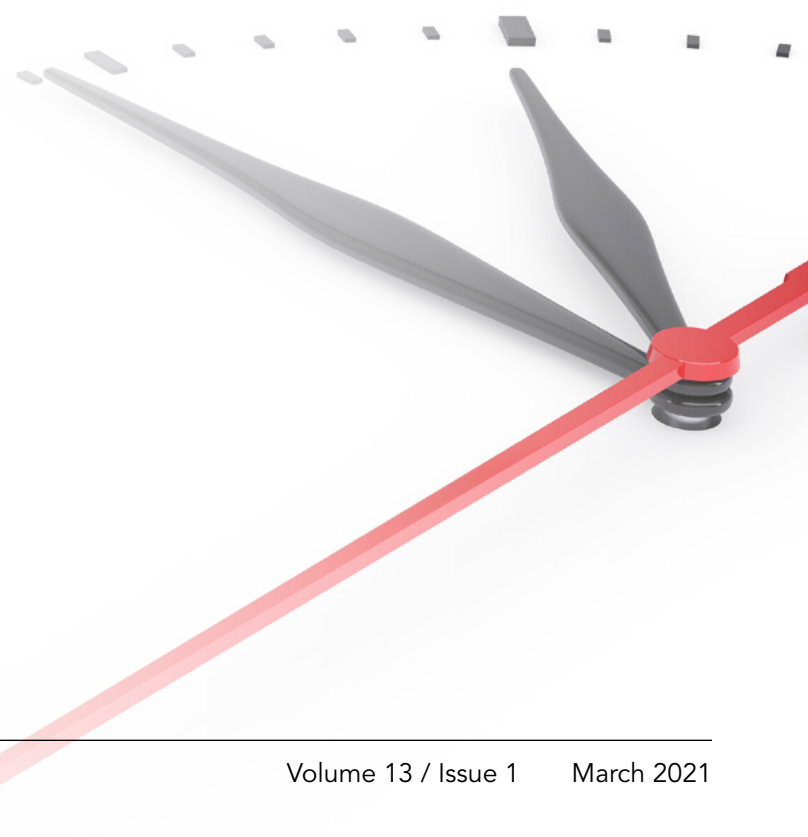
The Failure to File Fee was incurred in 2020 by those pharmacies who failed to notify the College of changes to the directors of the corporation at the time of the change. The average Failure to File Fee for each pharmacy was significant, with over 100 days of late fees incurred.

Please see section 3 of Part I of the Regulatory Bylaws, which states:

Unpaid Annual Fees (3) The name of any pharmacy whose prescribed annual fee(s) or applicable surcharge is unpaid after November 30, in any year, shall be removed from the register and the proprietor shall lose the privileges conferred upon him by the Act to operate the pharmacy but he may, subject to the bylaws, be reinstated upon payment of the prescribed surcharge, permit and prescribed reinstatement fee(s).

The intent of the Failure to File Fee is to increase the accountability and awareness of professional responsibilities to ensure the Act is being followed and permits are accurate. SCPP has had disciplinary issues whereby permits have not been accurate and as such there is risk to the public and the College with being able to hold people accountable. Corporate documents that are inaccurate are also in breach of the *Corporations Act* and as such, pharmacies may not be upholding the laws of the province.

For additional information, please see the [Pharmacy Manager Responsibilities](#) Reference Manual document.



Staff Updates

Service Recognition

SCPP would like to recognize the contributions of three of our staff members as they depart SCPP.

Pat Guillemain, SCPP Pharmacy Permits and Systems Manager and Pharmacy Relations, was the longest serving member of the SCPP staff having been with the College since 1991. Pat joined the College as a secretary and held many positions within SCPP and finished her career as the Pharmacy Permits and Systems Manager and Pharmacy Relations.

Fatima Khan, SCPP Field Officer, started at SCPP in February 2018. Fatima's Field Operations area included Saskatoon, central and southwest Saskatchewan and a portion of Regina. Along with her field operations duties which included conducting Quality Improvement Reviews and Pre-opening and Renovation Inspections, Fatima also provided comprehensive information to and answered questions for both members and the public regarding pharmacy practice.

Heather Neirinck, SCPP Registration and Systems Administrator and Member Relations for Pharmacists, joined the College in May 2004 as the Administrative Assistant to the Registrar, Ray Joubert. Heather held many roles within the College and most notably assisting members with obtaining and renewing their membership.

On behalf of Council, the staff, and members, SCPP wishes Pat, Fatima, and Heather well on their future endeavors.

Staff Movement

With the departure of Heather and Pat, two staff have been promoted to new positions. Meaghan Underwood, previously Administrative Coordinator for Field Operations and Quality Assurance, has been promoted to Manager, Database and Systems – Member Relations Administrator. Caroline Zareba, previously the Administrator – Pharmacy Relations, Systems and Communications Support has been promoted to Manager, Pharmacy Permits and Pharmacy Relations. SCPP wishes them both success in their new positions.

With the departure of Fatima, SCPP is in the active process of recruiting two new field officers.

Welcome to New Staff



Emily Thompson-Golding – Administrative Coordinator for Field Operations and Quality Assurance

Emily joined SCPP on Feb. 8, 2021. Originally from England, she came to Saskatchewan in 2018 to study for a Master of Arts in History at the University of Regina, which she completed last year. Emily has previously worked as both an Administrative Officer and Customer Service Officer for local government in England and looks forward to utilizing her research skills in her new role.



Roberta Becker – Registration Administrator, Pharmacy and Member Relations

Roberta comes to SCPP with 20 years of experience in administration and office support and joined SCPP on Feb. 22, 2021. She has a Certificate in Office Education and continues to enhance her professional development. Roberta's experience spans government, non-profits and private sector organizations. She is excited for the opportunity to contribute to the SCPP team.



Shayna Murray – Registration Administrator, Member Relations

Shayna has a diploma in accounting and has almost 20 years of experience in senior administrative positions in member-based organizations, including ten years as the office coordinator with a health care professional regulatory body. Shayna is excited to be a new part of the team at SCPP. She joined SCPP on Feb. 22, 2021.

Melissa Weger will join SCPP March 29 as **Registration Administrator, Member Relations** for a temporary one-year term to cover a maternity leave. Melissa is a customer experience professional with a varied range of experience in the travel industry. Skilled in problem-solving, and building and maintaining member relationships, Melissa worked in a very busy medical clinic before becoming an award-winning travel consultant.



OPPORTUNITIES

SCPP Seeking New Staff

SCPP is looking for a dynamic pharmacist to join our Complaints and Discipline team as a part-time Complaints Investigator. The ideal candidate will be highly motivated and progressive with excellent communication and interpersonal skills. They will be able to work effectively in a team environment as well as independently. Assets include administrative, organizational and time management skills, a working knowledge of pharmacy legislation and its application to practice. Apply to jeana.wendel@saskpharm.ca by March 12, 2021.

Read the [full job posting](#) here.

NAPRA Seeking Candidates

NAPRA is looking for nominations for the following two positions:

An academic expert in drug use, with teaching and/or research experience preferably in the area of nonprescription pharmacotherapy, self-care or minor ailments prescribing.

An individual with expertise in regulatory affairs in the pharmaceutical industry who is not currently in the employ of a pharmaceutical company.

If anybody wishes to nominate someone, have the candidate submit their CV or resume along with a letter of recommendation from nominator to the attention of smarshall@napra.ca by March 26, 2021.

More information can be [found here](#).

Applications Open for NAPB Individual Study Grant

District Five of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) announced that it will sponsor Individual study grants during 2021. The District will grant up to \$3,000.00 each to study topics which benefit pharmacy students, pharmacy education or pharmacy practice.

Applications may be submitted by individual pharmacy students with a faculty or board of pharmacy advisor, pharmacy student organizations with a faculty or board of pharmacy advisor, faculty members, or board of pharmacy members. Applications are due by May 28, 2021. Selection of the recipients will be made by June 15, 2021.

The recipients of the 2021 study grants will be required to present their study results at the August 2022 District Five Annual Meeting in South Dakota.

A detailed grant announcement, including the application process, can be [found here](#).



Discipline Matters

The Discipline Committee considers the primary purpose of a discipline proceeding to be the protection of the public and the pharmacy profession as a whole. The Discipline Committee is conscious of the fact that the public must have confidence in the profession's ability to regulate itself in a manner that protects the public. All Decisions and Orders of the Discipline Committee are posted on the [CanLII website](#) in their entirety.

Gregory Lazurko

On Oct. 14, 2020, the Discipline Committee convened a hearing to hear and determine charges of professional incompetence and/or professional misconduct against pharmacist Gregory Lazurko. The hearing proceeded via an agreed statement of facts and a joint submission on penalty.

The agreed statement of facts described the charges summarized below:

1. On or about Aug. 21, 2017, Mr. Lazurko received a verbal prescription order from an authorized prescriber in Alberta. The prescription documentation Mr. Lazurko created provides for "Zopiclone 5 mg (PMS), take as directed, qty 60, 11 repeats." Without proper authorization from the prescriber, Mr. Lazurko refilled this prescription 97 times for a total of 5,800 tablets.
2. On numerous and multiple occasions between July 30, 2018 and April 13, 2020, Mr. Lazurko dispensed to himself large quantities of Zopiclone 5mg and Quetiapine 25mg without authorization from the prescribing physician by:
 - a. Altering the instructions;
 - b. Altering the duration between refills;
 - c. Altering the quantity.
3. On numerous and multiple occasions between July 30, 2018 and April 13, 2020, Mr. Lazurko prescribed and dispensed to himself large quantities of Zopiclone 5mg and Quetiapine 25mg.
4. Further to charge number 3 and contrary to the

requirements of Park K, section 2 of the Regulatory Bylaws, Mr. Lazurko failed to prepare a Pharmacist Assessment Record.

5. Mr. Lazurko failed to submit information to the Provincial Drug Plan claims system contrary to section 3.3.(3)(c) of *The Prescriptions Drugs Act*.

Upon reviewing and considering the evidence submitted by way of the Agreed Statement of Facts, the Discipline Committee accepted Mr. Lazurko's guilty plea and found him guilty of professional misconduct and professional incompetence as defined in *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act* (the "Act"). The Discipline Committee considered his conduct both concerning and dangerous and to have fallen below the standard expected for the profession.

The Discipline Committee accepted the joint submission on penalty from Ms. Darcia Schirr, Q.C. Counsel for the College and Ms. Lisa Watson, counsel for Mr. Lazurko which included:

1. Mr. Lazurko shall be reprimanded.
2. Mr. Lazurko's licence shall be suspended for a period of 30 days commencing April 15, 2020.
3. Upon reinstatement, Mr. Lazurko's license to practise is subject to the following restrictions:
 - a. Mr. Lazurko shall successfully complete (as demonstrated by an unconditional pass) the CPEP course entitled "PROBE Ethics and Boundaries" and provide confirmation of successful completion to the Registrar. Mr. Lazurko shall bear all costs associated with that course.
 - b. Mr. Lazurko shall refrain from the use of controlled substances, both licit and illicit, narcotics, controlled drugs, benzodiazepines, "Z-drugs" and any other mood altering/target substances unless prescribed by his treating physician and/or psychiatrist and dispensed by another pharmacist. Mr. Lazurko shall be prohibited from dispensing to himself any of the substances set out herein.

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- c. Mr. Lazurko shall cooperate with any and all referrals made by his physician or psychiatrist regarding his sleep disorder.
 - d. Mr. Lazurko shall provide the Registrar with an authorization directed to his treating physician and psychiatrist so that, for a period of two years from Oct. 14, 2020, the Registrar may seek periodic reports regarding Mr. Lazurko's compliance with the treatment regime and in particular, compliance with the prescription medication directions. Mr. Lazurko shall bear all costs, if any, associated with the reports.
4. Mr. Lazurko shall pay a fine in the amount of \$5,000.00.
 5. Mr. Lazurko shall pay the costs of the investigation and hearing which costs shall be fixed in the amount of \$17,230.00.

The entire [Decision](#) and [Order](#) is available for review on CanLII.

Raelyn Tammy Pollock (nee Riese) – Voluntary Undertaking and Agreement – Summary

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (the College) considers the primary purpose of an Alternative Dispute Resolution process to be the protection of the public and the pharmacy profession as a whole.

The College is conscious of the fact that the public must have confidence in the profession's ability to regulate itself in a manner that protects the public and has determined that a digest of Alternative Dispute Resolution processes will be published.

Voluntary Undertaking and Agreement

Where there is evidence to support the allegation of professional incompetence, professional misconduct or proprietary misconduct, the Chair of the Complaints Committee, on behalf of the Complaints Committee, shall determine whether there is an opportunity to use an Alternative Dispute Resolution to resolve the complaint. A resolution or remedy may result in Voluntary Undertaking, which is one form of an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

An ADR process, while not a discipline hearing, will result in an agreement between the College and the signatories of the agreement which meets the public protection mandate. Should the member and/or proprietor not agree to participate in an ADR, the file is referred back to the Complaints Committee, which may result in referral to the Discipline Committee for a hearing. The SPP Regulatory Bylaws Part P.1 section 3(12) and (13) state the ADR processes.

The Complaint

- In October 2020, the Complaints Committee received a notification of Ms. Pollock's termination for cause from her employer due to the theft of prescription medications trazodone, cyclobenzaprine, and diclofenac 10 % cream.
- On October 27, 2020, the Council of the College passed a resolution pursuant to section 33 of *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act* (the "Act") to suspend Ms. Pollock's licence to practise as a pharmacy technician.
- Ms. Pollock signed an Undertaking and Agreement of Non-Practice on Nov. 27, 2020 agreeing not to practise as a licensed pharmacy technician in Saskatchewan nor seek a licence to practise in any other jurisdiction while the Complaints Committee continued its investigation.

The Agreement

Raelyn Tammy Pollock agreed to a Voluntary Undertaking and Agreement in February 2021, which, while an alternative to the discipline process, ensures the ongoing protection by removal of the member from the professional register and notification to other professional regulatory bodies of Ms. Pollock's Agreement.

In summary, Ms. Pollock has agreed to the following provisions:

1. Ms. Pollock will permanently cease practising as a licensed pharmacy technician. Her licence to practise will be cancelled and her name will be struck from the College practice registry.
2. Ms. Pollock may seek a return to active practice if Council of the College passes a resolution allowing her return.
3. Ms. Pollock understands that should she seek to return to active practice as a licensed pharmacy technician and Council grants her application, the Complaints Committee shall resume their discipline proceedings
4. Ms. Pollock understands that the Complaints Committee will recommend to the Registrar that a summary of the Agreement and circumstances under which it was entered will be published in the College newsletter and on the College website.
5. Ms. Pollock understands that the Registrar may provide information regarding her status to other Canadian pharmacy regulatory authorities.

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Harvey Smith

On Dec. 10, 2020, the Discipline Committee convened a hearing to hear and determine charges of professional incompetence and/or professional misconduct against pharmacist Harvey Smith. The hearing proceeded via an agreed statement of facts and a joint submission on penalty and costs.

The agreed statement of facts described the charges summarized below:

1. On or about Oct. 10, 2019, and Jan. 2, 2020 respectively, Mr. Smith prescribed and dispensed Depo-Provera to his [family member]. Mr. Smith falsely identified the prescriber as Nurse Practitioner H.S. in the Provincial Drug Plan data base which is accessible through the Pharmaceutical Information Program.
2. On or about Oct. 10, 2019, and Jan. 2, 2020 respectively, Mr. Smith failed to accurately identify himself as the prescriber of the Depo-Provera he prescribed and dispensed to his [family member] on internal pharmacy software systems.
3. Mr. Smith failed to prepare a Pharmacist Assessment Record regarding the October 10, 2019 and January 2, 2020 prescriptions of Depo-Provera to his [family member], as required under Part K, section 2(1) of the Regulatory Bylaws.
4. Mr. Smith failed to notify Nurse Practitioner H.S. of his prescription of Depo-Provera to his [family member] regarding the prescriptions on both October 10, 2019 and January 2, 2020.
5. On or about Feb. 19, 2020, Mr. Smith had a conversation with Nurse Practitioner H.S. over the telephone. Mr. Smith discussed the prescription of Depo-Provera on Jan. 2, 2020 for his [family member]. Mr. Smith was questioned by H.S. regarding the prescriber. Mr. Smith maintained to H.S. that she was the prescriber for the Depo-Provera on Jan. 2, 2020, which Mr. Smith knew was false and incorrect.
6. Later on Feb. 19, 2020, Mr. Smith had a second conversation with Nurse Practitioner H.S. at the pharmacy. Mr. Smith was questioned by H.S. regarding the prescriber. Mr. Smith maintained to H.S. that she was the prescriber for the Depo-Provera on Jan. 2, 2020, which Mr. Smith knew was false and incorrect.

Upon reviewing and considering the evidence submitted by way of the Agreed Statement of Facts, the Discipline Committee accepted Mr. Smith's guilty plea and found him guilty of professional misconduct and professional incompetence as defined in *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act* (the "Act").

The Discipline Committee reiterated its view that as professionals, pharmacists must conduct themselves in a professional manner and maintain the decorum of the profession – no matter who a pharmacist is dealing with.

Moreover, the Discipline Committee was particularly concerned about the effect of Mr. Smith's misconduct and incompetence on his professional relationship with Nurse Practitioner H.S. Notwithstanding his intentions, the fact of the matter is that Mr. Smith improperly used Nurse Practitioner H.S.'s name to fill prescriptions and, when confronted, was not truthful with Nurse Practitioner H.S. Trust is a cornerstone of the profession and the Discipline Committee had no hesitation in concluding that Mr. Smith's dishonest conduct would have the effect of fracturing the professional relationship between Nurse Practitioner H.S. and Mr. Smith.

In accepting the Joint Submission, including costs, the Discipline Committee took into account the scale of the conduct, the ongoing nature of the conduct and the seriousness of the conduct. The Discipline Committee further considered the lack of disciplinary history, the guilty pleas, and Mr. Smith's remorse and cooperation with the Complaints Committee. Mr. Smith committed serious misconduct, most particularly demonstrated through his misrepresentations to Nurse Practitioner H.S. The penalty set out in the Joint Submission will serve as a specific deterrent and a general deterrent to other members of the profession.

- Mr. Smith shall be reprimanded.
- Mr. Smith's licence to practise is subject to the following conditions:
 - ▶ Mr. Smith shall successfully complete (as demonstrated by an unconditional pass) the CPEP course entitled "PROBE Ethics and Boundaries." Mr. Smith shall bear all costs associated with that course.
 - ▶ Mr. Smith shall successfully complete (as demonstrated by an unconditional pass) the CPDPP Minor Ailments Basics Level 1 Course. Mr. Smith shall bear all costs associated with that course.
- Mr. Smith shall pay the costs of the investigation and hearing, which costs shall be fixed in the amount of \$15,630.00.

The entire [Decision and Order](#) is available for review on CanLII. ■



From the Desk of the Dean

Dr. Jane Alcorn, Dean, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition

For the latest news from the college, visit our website.

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition has been a very different place this year with the shift to online learning, but I've been impressed with how our faculty, staff and students are continuing to adapt. The university has recently announced that online learning will continue through the spring and summer term, but activity on campus is slowly increasing in a safe, responsible manner. Updates on the university's status are available on the COVID-19 response page. [Read more.](#)

The Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs virtual accreditation site visit for our Doctor of Pharmacy program took place Feb. 1-3. The accreditation team met with various groups and individuals including faculty, staff, students, preceptors, and other USask administration. A final report on the results of the accreditation process is expected in June.

Thank you to Drs. Kerry Mansell and Carol Henry for their service to the college as Assistant Dean, Pharmacy and Assistant Dean, Nutrition. They were both appointed as assistant deans in July 2015 and have provided exemplary leadership to their divisions for six years. The college is currently in the process of selecting new candidates for these positions to be appointed July 1, 2021.

March is Pharmacy Appreciation Month and our pharmacy students in CAPSI Saskatchewan have planned virtual events throughout the month to celebrate the pharmacy community. Follow CAPSI Saskatchewan on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to join in on the events.

Admissions to the pharmacy and nutrition programs for fall 2021 closed on Feb. 15. Admissions decisions for both programs will be made in mid-June.

Congratulations to nutrition student Lauren Thompson on receiving the Academic Excellence Award for the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition at the Indigenous Student Achievement Awards on Thursday, February 4. The Indigenous Student Achievement Awards Ceremony is a time to honour and celebrate the academic accomplishments, research endeavours, leadership and community involvement of Indigenous students at USask. [Read more.](#)



Lauren Thompson

Congratulations to doctoral student Se'era Anstruther and master's student Sarah Crawford who earned first and second place in the trainee research competition at The People Around the World Conference 2021, which took place virtually on Feb. 2 and 3. The conference brought together expert research, applied knowledge, and lived experiences to create the path forward for stronger, more resilient societies in the wake of COVID-19, and on the way to meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals in 2030.

The college's faculty and staff are engaged in a number of COVID-19-related activities, including research projects and new initiatives within our professional services, such as medSask and MAC. Some of the notable projects from the last few months include:

Pulses prove to be a recipe for heart-healthy success. [Read more.](#)

USask awarded \$650K to work with First Nations and Métis communities to address the impacts of COVID-19. [Read more.](#)

USask study finds COVID isolation worsens student diets, inactivity, and alcohol intake. [Read more.](#)

A full listing of these new projects and initiatives is available on our website. [Read more.](#)

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Examination Dates

Below are the exam dates at time of publishing. For the most up-to-date exam schedules, please visit www.pebc.ca.

Pharmacist Schedule of Exams

Examination Name	Examination Date	Application Deadline Date*
Spring Pharmacist Qualifying Examination	MCQ: May 25-27, 2021	March 12, 2021
	OSCE: May 30, 2021	
Summer Pharmacist Evaluating Examination	June 16, 2021	March 12, 2021
Fall Pharmacist Qualifying Examination	MCQ: Nov. 8-12, 2021	Aug. 6, 2021
	OSCE: Nov. 6, 2021	

Pharmacy Technician Schedule of Exams

Examination Name	Examination Date	Application Deadline Date*
Winter Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination	MCQ: Apr. 8, 2021	Deadline passed.
	OSPE: Apr. 10, 2021	
Summer Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination	MCQ: Sept. 13, 2021	June 4 2021
	OSPE: Sept. 19, 2021	

* Applications must be received by the PEBC office no later than the application deadline date.



Connect with us to get the latest news and updates from the College, helpful practice tips, key resources, important reminders, and more!

