

# SCOPE newsletter

July 2021



## SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY PROFESSIONALS

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## SCPP President's Address

I would like to start by acknowledging I am speaking to you from treaty 6 territory, the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota, and Dene, and the traditional home of the Métis.

Thank you for attending the 110th SCPP AGM - the second year we conduct our AGM virtually in compliance with public health orders. I would like to extend my gratitude to Stephanie for her leadership during a difficult year and to congratulate her for the new addition to her family in the very near future. And thank you Marilyn for graciously stepping up to Chair your second virtual AGM.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives. For me, the pandemic feels like a very slow-moving storm. As a large storm, the pandemic will leave behind considerable damage and it will change the way we do things. However, we can count on the fact that storms come to an end. Then again, it is not the external physical damage left behind that results in the deepest and longest-lasting wounds. It is the human experience of living through the storm that scars all survivors.

Haruki Murakami, an award-winning Japanese writer, eloquently portrays the human experience in a storm. He wrote: "Once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in."

The pandemic caused significant damage. Over 550 families in Saskatchewan mourned the loss of loved ones to COVID. There are almost 50,000 confirmed cases, many of those



patients suffered severely, and many more are struggling with lingering effects. In addition, many of us struggle with mental health issues, isolation, and burnout.

The pandemic changed the way we do things and how we communicate. Today, we use words and phrases that a few months ago were rarely used or didn't exist or have different meanings and connotations, such as "unprecedented," "the new normal," "self-isolation," "speaking moistly," "masking," "twindemic," and "flatten the curve." The pandemic changed the way we behave.

We use Facetime, Zoom, and Webex to get together with friends to share a drink. More importantly, many of our friends and families lost their jobs, their businesses, their livelihoods.

Today we can see sunlight peeking through the storm clouds and the beautiful prairie blue skies on the horizon.

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## SCPP COUNCIL 2020-2021

### PRESIDENT

Rod Amaya, Saskatoon

### PRESIDENT-ELECT, DIVISION 8

Amy Wiebe, Saskatoon

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Stephanie Scott, Weyburn

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### PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

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Michael Lummerding, St. Brieux

### SENIOR STICK OBSERVERS

Maya Rattanavong, University of Saskatchewan

Celynn Elder, University of Saskatchewan

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.

As of yesterday, over 816,000 vaccine doses have been administered in the province. Almost 145,000 citizens are fully vaccinated, and another 530,000 have received their first dose, many of them from pharmacists. Every day we inch closer to meeting vaccination targets of the Saskatchewan Re-Opening Road Map Step 3.

While I am vaccinating, it is so moving to hear a grandmother tell me how excited she is to hug her grandkids again. And a mother who cannot wait for travel restrictions to be lifted to see her son who lives in Alberta.

The end of the storm is near.

Getting to this point was not easy. It required the effort of many essential workers, who showed up despite the fear, uncertainty, and anxiety. The human experience of pharmacy professionals can be described in three words: resilience, passion, and purpose.

Pharmacy professionals have a long and proud history of service to their communities. At the start of the provincewide stay-home orders, as front-line essential workers, we did not have the opportunity to work from home. Instead, we responded to the call to deliver primary care services, ensure access to essential supplies, and help all our patients through the disruption of regular services.

I am incredibly proud to be part of this group of dedicated professionals and essential workers who toiled day in and day out to deliver care in uncertain times and drove to work on eerily empty streets. Saskatchewan pharmacy professionals demonstrated their tenacity and resiliency.

SCPP staff worked diligently with our various health care partners to provide us with novel tools to care for our patients, to provide quality pharmaceutical services, and to secure access to care. Daily, the office sent communications, multiple memos, web and social media posts to inform pharmacies about the latest information and developments. We had to adapt and action new guidelines and policies quickly and often.

Pharmacy professionals never wavered in their commitment to care for their patients, sometimes at high personal cost. Some of us experienced burnout. I prefer the term "compassion fatigue." Only passion for the profession, our patients, and our teams helped us transform compassion fatigue into compassion satisfaction.



**The end of the storm is near.**

Pharmacists were instrumental in preventing a twindemic by delivering over 70 per cent of influenza vaccines last year. When the Ministry of Health and SCPP amended regulations, bylaws, and policies: 58 registered pharmacy technicians, 74 per cent of student interns, and over half of the registered extended interns answered the call for help and achieved their certification to administer COVID-19 vaccines, to help over 1,300 pharmacists in the effort to inoculate as many people as quickly as possible. Pharmacy managers and their team had to scale up their efforts to manage the extra workload of injecting and answering the phone.

Although the pandemic has taken a lot of our collective time and energy, we still need to deliver on our core services. SCPP and pharmacy professionals continue to live their purpose. SCPP Council and the office will continue to focus on building excellence in the pharmacy profession through regulation for the benefit of all Saskatchewan residents.

In addition to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacy professionals continue to fight the opioid crisis. In response, Council developed policies to address problems raised by the Provincial Auditor regarding opioid dispensing practices. Given the critical role of pharmacists as stewards of opioids, Council identified opportunities for training and launched the Harm Reduction Training Umbrella in partnership with CPDPP.

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That most registrants chose the optional advanced version of the training is a clear indication of the commitment to care.

Today, I must recognize and celebrate your efforts during the pandemic. Thank you for showing up to work when everyone else stayed home. Thank you, Jeana and your team, for providing pharmacy professionals with innovative regulatory changes to enable the tools we needed in a timely manner. Special thanks to my team, for their efforts, day in and day out, and to my family for their unwavering support.

We are not the same profession and professionals that went into the storm. We have scars to prove our resilience and commitment to care during the pandemic. More importantly, we demonstrated the value we bring to our communities and to the health care system. The wind is in our sails; the sun is shining.

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## SCPP STAFF

### Executive

**JEANA WENDEL**  
Registrar

**LORI POSTNIKOFF**  
Deputy Registrar

### Executive Assistance

**INGRID WAKEFIELD**  
Executive Assistant to the Registrar

**CHRISTINA MCPHERSON**  
Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Registrar

### Administrative Support

**DARLENE KING**  
Reception and Office Operations Coordinator

### Registration, Licensing, Permits

**CAROLINE ZAREBA**  
Manager, Pharmacy Permits and Pharmacy Relations

**MEAGHAN UNDERWOOD**  
Manager, Database and Systems – Member Relations Administrator

**ROBERTA BECKER**  
Registration Administrator – Pharmacy and Member Relations

### PELESHIA DUBIDAD

Administrator – Member Relations, Systems and Communications Support

### SHAYNA MURRAY

Registration Administrator – Member Relations

### AUDREY SOLIE

Registration Administrator  
Member Relations – Pharmacists

### MELISSA WEGER

Registration Administrator - Member Relations - Term

### Field Operations, Professional Practice, COMPASS

**JEANNETTE SANDIFORD**  
Assistant Registrar – Field Operations and Quality Assurance

**JENNIFER KOSKIE**  
Field Officer

**BRITTANY SHARKEY**  
Certified Compounding Inspector – Field Officer

**EMILY THOMPSON-GOLDING**  
Administrative Coordinator for Field Operations and Quality Assurance

**STEVE YAKIWCHUK**  
Field Officer

### Complaints and Discipline

**CHANTAL LAMBERT**  
Assistant Registrar – Complaints Director

**TAMI SCHWEBIUS**  
Complaints Manager

**JOANNE DEIBERT**  
Complaints Investigator - Contract

### Policy and Legislation

**KATHLEEN HANDFORD**  
Director of Policy and Legislation

**DAVID CHOU**  
Pharmacy Policy and Practice Consultant

**NATALIE REDIGER**  
Pharmacy Policy and Practice Consultant

**KIM SAMOILA**  
Policy Analyst

### Communications

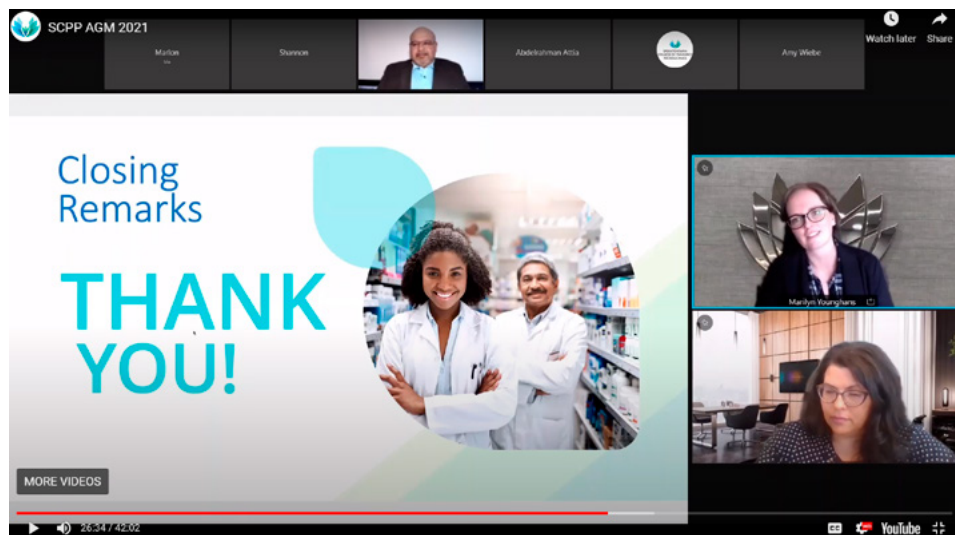
**MARLON HECTOR**  
Communications Coordinator

It is my goal to lead Council and SCPP to work collaboratively with our partners to continue to create regulations that enable pharmacy professionals to deliver exceptional care to their patients. I am confident that next year will be filled with opportunities to share with our loved ones, to do the things we took for granted before the pandemic began,

and for pharmacy professionals to continue to fill health care gaps in their communities.

I will close by sharing with you a few lines from one of my favorite Michael Bublé songs. I just couldn't express it any better.

"It's a new day; It's a new life; It's a new world; And I'm feeling ... good!" ■



## SCPP's 110th Annual General Meeting

SCPP held its 110th and second virtual Annual General Meeting on June 9, 2021. A [video of the meeting](#) is posted on the SCPP website.

The meeting provided members with an opportunity to ask questions about the annual report, audited financial statements and bring forward any items of 'new business.'

Past-President Marilyn Younghans hosted in the absence of President Stephanie Scott who was on maternity leave.

"When I first came onto Council, I didn't think it would take such a spot in my heart, but it has," said Marilyn. "We have done lots of work over my time sitting on Council ... I would like to commend all our members for all the extra hard work that they have done this year with COVID.

"It has been an extraordinary year again and as always; pharmacy professionals have stepped up and done the right thing...."

The meeting also included: a welcome to the new Council as of July 1; a recognition of SCPP retiring Council and committee members; a report by SCPP Registrar Jeana Wendel; and an address by President Rod Amaya, who was installed as Council President for the 2021-2022 year.

See all the award recipients recognized at the meeting in this publication.

SCPP would like to thank all who attended.

### 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.

# COVID-19 Updates

## A Reminder to Be Pro-Active and Kind

Pharmacy professionals on the front lines are being pulled in a lot of directions with new information and updates daily and increasing demands from the public.

It's important to remember that everyone, including those supporting front-line pharmacy professionals, is doing their best to ensure both vaccines and information is readily available.

Remembering that we are all working toward the same goals should go a long way to ensuring we treat each other kindly.

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) staff have been inundated with unnecessary emails and phone calls which slow down everyone's productivity when the information can easily be found online.

The DPEBB has asked SCPP to communicate the following reminders:

- Please always exhibit professionalism and courtesy while corresponding with the DPEBB staff. Repeated rudeness and harassment will not be tolerated, and complaints will be filed with the appropriate authority.
- Please review information previously provided by the DPEBB via email and available on the COVID-19 tab prior to contacting the DPEBB with questions.

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## Changes after July 11

In preparation for the removal of all public health orders on Sunday, July 11, the Government of Saskatchewan issued a news release on July 7, 2021: [Living with COVID-19: Re-Opening Saskatchewan Step Three Guidance](#).

A page on Living with COVID-19 has been developed for the public, as well as a page on [Re-Opening Saskatchewan Step 3 FAQ For Businesses and Workers](#) with information about workplace testing, vaccination, masking/distancing, contact tracing/isolation, and a legal disclaimer.

Pharmacists should review these resources closely as they consider which COVID-19 safety measures to implement in their businesses following July 11. Factors the pharmacy manager may wish to consider in making personal protective equipment (PPE) decisions include the type of services provided, the kind of patients being serviced, the amount of time a staff member will be interacting with a client of the pharmacy as well as the comfort level of staff members. Of note, an additional Q-and-A has been developed to guide health service providers:

*Q: What protective measures should be used in locations where health services are provided? (e.g., physician offices, dentist offices, pharmacies, group homes, etc.)*

*A: While the public health order ends as of July 11, COVID-19 prevention procedures and guidelines will remain in place based on the requirements of an infection prevention and control or OH&S assessment that considers an endemic. For example, Saskatchewan Health Authority acute and long term care facilities and Saskatchewan Cancer Agency locations will maintain the use of personal protective equipment and screening protocols for staff for the time being.*

All protective measures currently in place in locations where health services are provided (i.e., barriers, physical distancing, masking, PPE) may remain available to you and your staff, based on the services you are providing and the provision of a safe workplace.

Once the provincial public health order is lifted and masks are no longer mandatory, members will want to review SCPP's [Infection Control Guidelines](#). Pharmacy managers will want to ensure they are familiar with the guidelines and have also discussed the guidelines with all staff members. They should be prepared with policies and processes to explain their pharmacy's protocols for infectious disease control and risk mitigation strategy to keep staff and customers safe and healthy.

For facilities or businesses that require a mask, patrons/clients must respect those protocols, or they may choose not to visit the establishment. See this [SCOPE October 2020](#) article for strategies when patients refuse to wear masks. Key resources:

- [Re-Opening Saskatchewan Step 3 FAQ](#)
- [Living with COVID-19](#)
- [Infection Control Guidelines; Hand Hygiene; Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette](#)
- [SCOPE October 2020 – What if Patients Refuse to Wear Masks?](#)



- Please only contact the DPEBB for vaccine-related questions via [DPEBImmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:DPEBImmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca). With earned days off and vacations, emails sent to individual members of the Professional Practice Unit will not be seen or addressed in a timely manner.
- Please regularly check the [COVID-19 tab](#), the Government of Saskatchewan [news and media releases](#) website, the [SCPP website](#), the [PAS website](#), and all emails issued by any of these organizations for information pertaining to the COVID-19 Immunization Program.

## COVID-19 Section 56 Exemption Extension

Health Canada has advised SCPP that the [Section 56 Exemption](#) will be extended until September 30, 2026.

The class exemption for patients,

practitioners and pharmacists will continue to streamline patient care by preventing patients from going without access to medication, reducing the number of patients needing to go to hospital emergency rooms to obtain prescriptions, and allowing pharmacists to accept verbal prescriptions. The class exemption will be effective October 1, 2021 (when the previous exemption expires) to September 30, 2026.

SCPP will be meeting with Prescription Review Program (PRP) provincial stakeholders over the summer as this announcement has implications to the provincial PRP. At this time, the current exemption will continue until September 30, 2021 and once the provincial stakeholders have had an opportunity to review and discuss Saskatchewan's path forward, further communication will be forthcoming from the College.

It is important that you read,

understand and comply with all the conditions and limitations of the exemption, including establishing appropriate relationships with patients receiving CDSA medications and maintaining the appropriate records.

SCPP will be reviewing all standards, guidelines and policies to reflect best practices in light of the exemption extension.

## Vaccine Inventory and Ordering

DPEBB wishes to remind pharmacists

- to review their orders in the Vaccine Distribution Tracking System (VTDS), confirm their orders on the same week and, if not requiring any vaccine, to enter zero.
- to update on-hand inventory on a daily basis to ensure that overall inventory controls can be maintained by the Ministry.



# Council Highlights

June 9-10, 2021

## Council Members' Environmental Scans

- The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is seeing a need for additional licensed pharmacy technicians in the province and has struck a recruitment committee to brainstorm ways to recruit additional pharmacy technicians.
- Many positive reviews on the Harm Reduction programming. Biggest comment was they wished they would have signed up for the advanced course after having taken the primer version, as they found the information valuable.
- Increased demands due to the pandemic continues to be taxing for pharmacies, with concerns about burnout and pharmacy professionals' capacity as they take on more responsibility for immunizations.
- Convocation of the first class of PharmD graduates took place June 3, 2021.
- University of Saskatchewan (U of S) President Stoicheff has announced that the fall term will be a transition term with more face-to-face activities on campus, but continued online learning as well, while the Winter term beginning in January will be back to the usual face-to-face activities. The College is currently working on plans to determine what the fall term will look like for students in order to keep everyone safe.
- The U of S strategic plan indicated a comprehensive evaluation after the first wave of PharmD graduates. This process has begun under the guidance of the Pharmacy Program Advisory Committee on which SCPP's Registrar serves.
- U of S students completed both parts of the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada Examinations (PEBCs) in May and results will be released on July 26, 2021.
- Concerns remain about implementing compounding compliance standards in the midst of administering COVID immunization programs.
- Maria Sherring has been elected as President of the Pharmacy Technician Society of Saskatchewan.

## Registrar's Report

- SCPP continues to meet with SMA, CPSS, SRNA, PAS and SHA twice weekly to address COVID-19 matters. The second vaccine hesitancy campaign is now complete.
- There are 367 pharmacies in 101 communities participating in the mass immunization program.



- As of May 31, SCPP has issued 68 Advanced Method Technical Certifications to pharmacy technicians, 189 Advanced Method Student Certifications to student and extended interns, and one immunizer certificate.
- SCPP worked closely with the SHA Test to Protect Program, which enables pharmacies to test their staff with rapid antigen tests and published an FAQ document to support the program.
- Meetings continue with the COVID Response Unit (CRU), PAS and Health Canada regarding an additional federal program for rapid antigen testing for small and medium businesses. Pharmacists would provide training on the tests and businesses would need to report positive and negative results.

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- National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) Updates
  - ▶ Online prescription brokers arising in Canada with prescriptions coming in from outside of Canada and being filled either in Canada or shipped to pharmacies internationally. Legal opinion: This is a violation of Health Canada Regulations and Provincial Regulations for regulatory colleges such as pharmacy, nursing and medicine.
  - ▶ NAPRA continues to work on regulatory excellence and benchmarking, medication incident reporting standards, model standards of practice for pharmacists and technicians, compounding competencies, and language proficiency requirements.
  - ▶ SCPP Registrar has been appointed Chair of NAPRA as of May 2021 through to May 2022.
  - ▶ NAPRA has launched broad consultation on the Culture of Professionalism which coincides with SCPP's strategic goal 3 objective 3.1.: "Goal 3: To empower pharmacy professionals to practice autonomously to deliver safe patient care. Key Objectives 3.1 A greater understanding of 'professionalism' has been built among members." See article in this issue of SCOPE for more information.
  - ▶ NAPRA continues its work on creating a cross jurisdictional framework to guide the practice that is occurring within Canada with respect to patients receiving care across jurisdictions. As discussed at Council, SCPP will be required to conduct work on its bylaws and processes as a result.
- Network of Interdisciplinary Regulatory Organizations (NIRO) Updates
  - ▶ Governance training will take place in the fall and chair training in early 2022.
  - ▶ Regulatory colleges are having challenges in recruiting Executive Directors and Registrars.
  - ▶ A working group is being created to discuss performance measures for regulatory bodies, which coincides with NAPRA's and SCPP's strategic goals.
- Health Canada Updates
  - ▶ Health Canada has published the final report from the [Canadian Pain Task Force – An Action Plan for Pain in Canada](#). Two statements in the report address pharmacy:
    - Goal #2- People have equitable and consistent access to a continuum of timely, evidence-informed, and person-centred pain care and supports across jurisdictions:
      - ▶ Regulatory measures and reforms: Permanently implement regulatory changes to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic to extend pharmacist authority with the aim of ensuring access to opioid medications for all populations that need them.
    - Goal #6: There is improved and equitable access to services for populations disproportionately impacted by pain:
      - ▶ Educate all pharmacists, particularly those working in rural and remote areas, to understand the significant need and critical importance for the provision of opioid agonist therapy services (including methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone).
  - ▶ NAPRA, PRAs and Health Canada continue to work on a commercial compounding framework to address safety concerns with commercial compounding versus regular compounding.
  - ▶ NAPRA has been working to remove Natural Health Products (NHPs) from the National Drug Schedules (NDS) and is advocating a risk-based approach to NHP. NAPRA has agreed to keep ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in the NDS until January 2024.

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- Ministry of Health Updates

- ▶ There has been a request from Provincial Auditor regarding targets of the report from 2019. The list SCPP provided in response included:
  - Patient Identification Policy
  - Mandatory training on low-dose codeine
  - Mandatory training on harm reduction and OAT Standards
  - SCPP's plan to modernize all 13 of its CDSA documents
  - QIRs have a focus on CDSA drugs including storage, safety, record reconciliation processes and destruction
  - Mandatory pharmacy manager training – module on CDSA security and expectations
  - Working with CPSS and PRP program for auditing issues
- College Statistics
  - ▶ 417 pharmacies with eight pending
  - ▶ 1,771 practising pharmacists
  - ▶ 386 practising pharmacy technicians
  - ▶ Total membership: 2,355

## Finance Committee Report

- **Administrative Bylaw Amendment – Rates for kilometres:** Council approved a motion to amend the 2021 approved kilometre rates effective June 9, 2021, and SCPP will be using <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/payroll/benefits-allowances/automobile/automobile-motor-vehicle-allowances/automobile-allowance-rates.html> to set kilometre rates in order to provide consistency and transparency.
- **Failure to File Fee:** Council approved a recommendation that the Failure to File Fee of \$100 per day be capped

at \$10,000 plus GST. Failure to provide required documents, notify the College and keep an accurate permit is a contravention of *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act* and bylaws which is defined as misconduct. The failure to file fee is designed to be a deterrent to members to encourage compliance versus referring members to complaints to avoid bottlenecking the complaints system. For detailed information on the Failure to File Fee, please see the [Failure to File Fee](#) document.

## Other matters:

- **Age Limits for Publicly Funded Vaccine:** Council approved amending Part L of the Bylaws to changing the minimum age for publicly funded vaccines from nine years and over to five years and over.
- **Pharmacy Manager Policy Framework Update:** Due to other COVID priorities, this policy framework has been delayed. In January and February, the policy and legislation team completed work on a member survey and conducted phone interviews with pharmacy managers and corporate pharmacy executives to obtain further feedback with respect to the pharmacy manager framework, current practice, expectations, and thoughts from the membership regarding pharmacy management. The Registrar expects to bring a full report of the research, responses, along with current and ongoing examples of status quo concerns to Council in September regarding the policy framework, barring any unexpected COVID priorities.
- **COMPASS Report:**
  - ▶ 367 incidents reported in May 2021, with a total of 32,911 incidents reported from September 2013 to May 2021 – a jump of 1,961 since the previous COMPASS report in February 2021.
  - ▶ 388 MSSAs have been completed, of which 29 pharmacies have started a second MSSA.
  - ▶ 20 pharmacies have not completed an MSSA.
- **medSask Minor Ailments Updates:** medSask continues their work on updating and modernizing all 27 Minor Ailments. After the Feb. 9 and 10, 2021 Council meeting, there were six Minor Ailments pending review. Two more have been completed leaving four to update. The remaining four should be completed for the September Council meeting. Council approved the two updates to Erectile Dysfunction and Influenza (Epidemic or Pandemic) respectively. Stay tuned for updates from medSask and DPEBB.
- **CCCEP Accredited Training Injections Training:** Council approved pharmacy technicians to complete any CCCEP accredited (two-staged) competency mapped training program for injection training.

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## Field Operations Report

Thirty-eight QIRs completed so far in 2021 and 135 QIRs completed in total. A few common issues identified have been:

- Quality Improvement (QI) plan deficiencies: QI plans are not always developed or documented. Additionally, QI plans are not always monitored and updated at CQI meetings.
- Incident reporting: Pharmacies report the details of the incident well, but deficiencies were noted regarding identifying the causal/contributing factors and developing system-based solutions to deal with the incident.
- *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) related issues: Loss and Theft forms are not always being provided to Health Canada or SCPP, exempted low-dose codeine in package sizes of greater than 50 tablets or 100mls were being ordered and stocked by the pharmacy, and some pharmacies are not aware of destruction requirements and therefore do not have a process in place.
- Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) quality: Not all pharmacies are reviewing and resolving their failed transactions report daily and many pharmacy managers are not aware that they are to be doing regular PIP audits.
- Prescribing: Minor Ailment follow-up is not always documented on the PAR and some pharmacies are not using the PAR which contains all requirements to meet the bylaws.
- Other: Fridge temperatures are not being checked twice daily and minimum/maximum fridge temperatures are not being recorded or reset.
- In addition, some are not documenting "No Known Allergies" when confirmed with patient.

### MedSCIM Results:

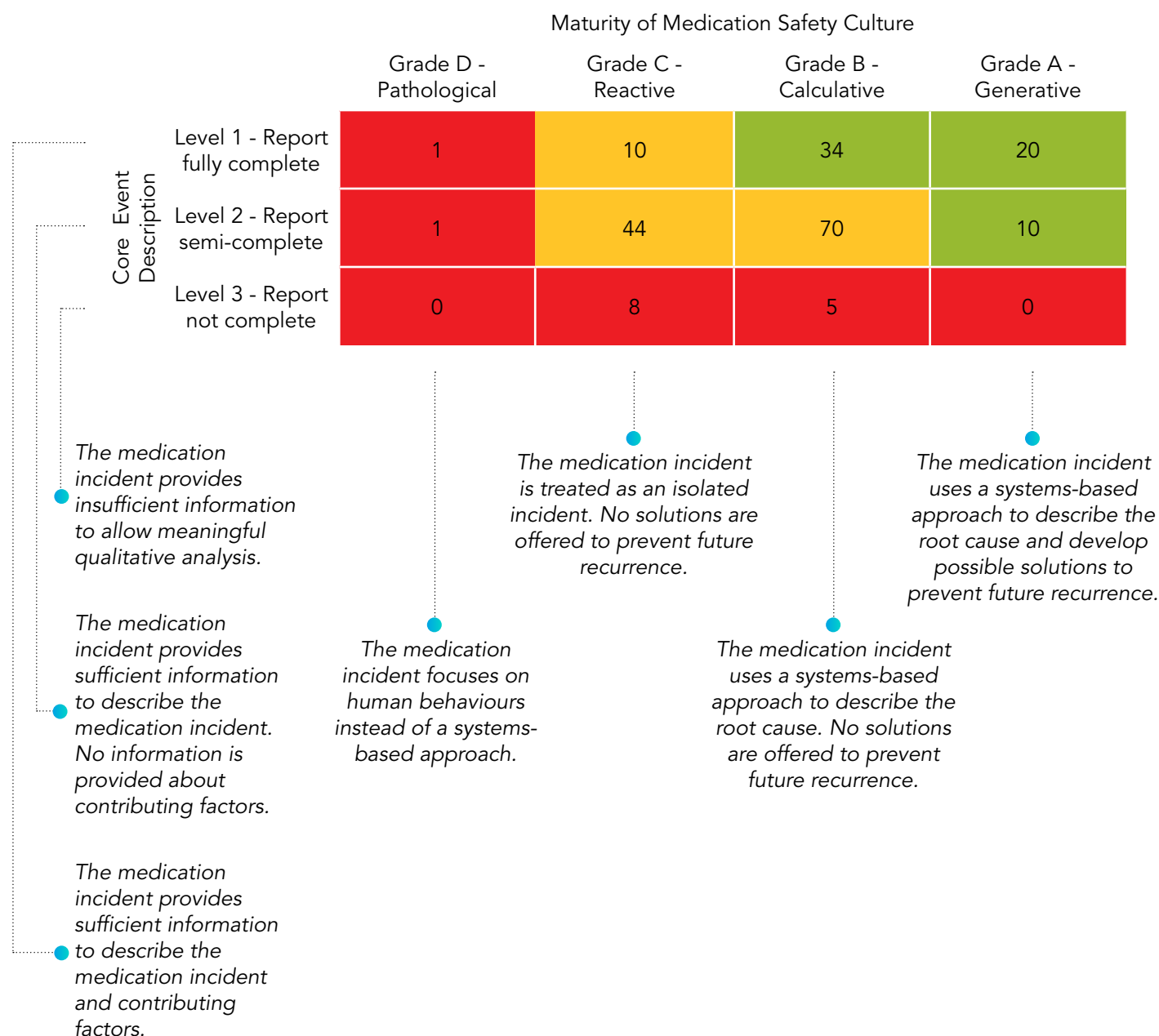
- ▶ Results indicate that the majority of reports, for both time-frames, are falling in the yellow zone- 51.3 per cent for Jan. 1, 2020 – Jan. 31, 2021, and 61.1 per cent for Feb. 1 – May. 31, 2021, which means that reports are predominantly semi-complete, with the maturity either reactive or calculative.
- ▶ Although there has been a slight decrease in the percentage of reports that fall into the green zone 38.0 per cent for Jan. 1, 2020 – Jan. 31, 2021, vs 31.5 per cent for Feb. 1 – May 31, 2021, this is still stable. There has also been a decrease in the percentage of reports that are falling in the red 10.7 per cent for Jan. 1, 2020 – Jan. 31, 2021, vs 7.4 per cent for Feb. 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021. It is also important to note that the first chart reflects the combined results for the first 13 months of completing QIRs, whereas the second chart is only the most recent results over the last four months.
- ▶ From a practical standpoint, most of the reports include a good description of what the error was but are semi-complete (usually missing the "why" or "how" the incident occurred). With respect to maturity, most pharmacies are treating the incident as a single, isolated event, and no attempts are made to review the root cause or "why" the error occurred, the contributing factors, or to determine a strategy to prevent it from occurring again. Increasingly, we are seeing system-based solutions being identified, even if the "why" or contributing factors are not identified.
- ▶ It is explained to pharmacies during the QIR that by first identifying and documenting the "why" or "how" an incident occurred, it will help to determine what strategies need to be implemented to prevent the error from occurring again.

### MedSCIM Results (Jan. 1 - Jan. 31, 2021)

		Maturity of Medication Safety Culture			
		Grade D - Pathological	Grade C - Reactive	Grade B - Calculative	Grade A - Generative
Core Event Description	Level 1 - Report fully complete	31	90	168	220
	Level 2 - Report semi-complete	34	287	213	49
	Level 3 - Report not complete	4	47	7	0

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## MedSCIM Results (Feb. 1 - May 31, 2021)



## Competency Assurance Committee

Consultant Nancy Winslade presented an introduction to the Council-approved competency assurance program task force which will be creating a comprehensive competency assurance program for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in Saskatchewan.

This program will enable Saskatchewan pharmacy professionals to maintain safe, quality pharmaceutical care through professional development processes that enhance patient-centred care and public safety. Processes will be measured and bench-marked against key performance indicators set out by SCPP.

The proposed schedule consists of:

- Summer 2021 - Review of best practices
- Fall 2021 to January 2022 - Review program drafts
- January to March 2022 - Membership review and comments
- April to May 2022 - Final draft
- June 2022 – Submission to Council

For more information on this program, please [see the article](#) in this issue of SCOPe. ■



# Constitution of Council, Committees and Appointees

In March 2021, elections were held for Rural Pharmacist 1, Rural Pharmacist 2, Hospital Pharmacy Technician and Urban Pharmacist 2. Congratulations to Hospital Pharmacy Technician Tracy Martens who won by acclamation and Tania Horkoff, Roxanne Bagnall and Sarah Kozusko who were elected.

At the June 9-10 Council meetings, elections were held for President, President-Elect and Honorary Treasurer. Rod Amaya accepted the position of President after serving as President-Elect for the 2020-2021 year, and Amy Wiebe accepted the position of President-Elect. Stephanie Scott becomes the Past President and SPCP wishes to extend their gratitude to her for her leadership and guidance as Council President throughout the 2020-2021 year. In addition, Tania Horkoff was chosen in the new Honourary Treasurer position.

Registrar-Treasurer Jeana Wendel's term was renewed, Deloitte was reappointed as Auditor for the 2021 fiscal year, and Eileen Libby, Q.C. of MLT lorchrichrist was appointed as Solicitor of record.

The following members were appointed to the Nominating Committee: Stephanie Scott (Immediate Past President), Rod Amaya (President), Lyndsay Brakstad (Practising Member), Marilyn Youngmans (Practising Member), and Bonnie Caven (Public Member) effective July 1, 2021, to July 1, 2022.

Council also amended the Terms of Reference of the Audit and Finance Committees to remove the reference to the Vice-President, a position that was eliminated with the Council restructure, and replaced it with the Honorary Treasurer.

Council appointed Cameron Bird and Leanne Wong as pharmacists to the Discipline Committee.



## As of July 1, 2020, SPCP Council comprises:

Title	Name	Location
President	Rod Amaya	Saskatoon
President-Elect and Division 8	Amy Wiebe	Saskatoon
Past President	Stephanie Scott	Weyburn
Honourary Treasurer and Rural/Remote Pharmacist	Tania Horkoff	Warman
Division 2	Kyla Jackson	Hudson Bay
Division 4	Shauna Nowakowski	Saskatoon
Division 6	Brandon Krahn	Swift Current
Hospital Pharmacy Technician	Tracy Martens	Weyburn
Rural/Remote Pharmacist	Roxanne Bagnall	Watson
Urban Pharmacist	Sarah Kozusko	Regina
Ex Officio	Dr. Jane Alcorn	Saskatoon
Designate Ex Officio	Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk	Saskatoon
Public Representative	Bonnie Caven	Regina
Public Representative	Mark Hawkins	Regina
Public Representative	Michael Lummerding	St. Brieux
Public Representative	Vacant	
Student Representative	Maya Rattnavong	Saskatoon
Student Representative	Celynn Elder	Saskatoon

Rod Amaya was appointed to the University of Saskatchewan Senate from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022,

with the option to renew for an additional three-year term.

# Reminders

## Malpractice Insurance

One of the requirements for membership is having valid malpractice insurance. You are required to provide evidence of suitable malpractice insurance.

Note that malpractice insurance must be purchased separately before you apply for registration and membership; it is not included with the SCPP Registration & Membership.

Insurance options include:

- membership with the [Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan \(PAS\)](#);
- the [Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists \(CSHP\)](#); or
- any provider offering malpractice insurance that meets our bylaw requirements.

Note that you cannot apply for your insurance with PAS before you have proof of successful completion of the PEBC qualification; if you will be purchasing insurance from another carrier, please confirm with them when you are able to apply for your insurance.

## Advance Method Certification (AMC):

AMC is required for administering drugs by injection and other routes.

Pharmacists in Saskatchewan can administer medications by injection and other routes when all steps as outlined below are completed:

- Completed a required [CCCEP](#) (two-staged) Competency-Mapped Accreditation training program including hands-on training;
- Completed the [SK-Specific Module 16](#) with CPDPP;
- Have up to date Standard First Aid and CPR with AED training from a recognized provider, such as St. Johns Ambulance. (Note your training expires within three years and must be renewed); and
- Once all the required training is in place, pharmacists must apply for their AMC certificate through SCPP. Following the initial application, members can renew this certificate every year during their renewal.

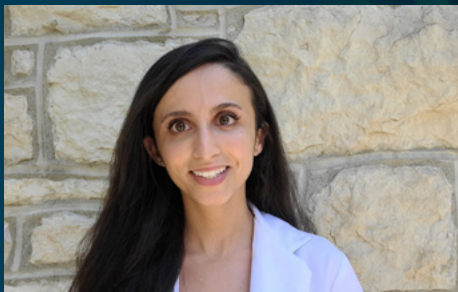
Email reminders are sent 45 days prior to the expiration of First Aid and/or CPR, and all subsequent weeks to follow until the certificate has been updated or expired.

Details on how to upload your updated certification will be found in the reminder memo.

If expired, members will no longer have the proper malpractice insurance to be performing this function and must refrain from providing medications by injection or other routes until all their training is up to date.



# Academic Awards



## SCPP Gold Medal - Ghita Echaoui

Ghita wins the SCPP Gold Medal, achieving a four-year average grade of 90.13 per cent.

Ghita grew up in Regina and values the lifelong learning and versatility of pharmacy as a profession.

"I was drawn to pharmacy as it fulfilled my desire to practice within the field of science and to help vulnerable populations," says Ghita.

She is excited for opportunities in a community, hospital or other setting and looks forward to furthering her therapeutic knowledge and making connections in the pharmacy community.



## SCPP Campbell Prize – Danielle d'Entremont

Originally from Nova Scotia, Danielle grew up in Moose Jaw and chose a career in pharmacy because she is passionate about science and educating others.

"Pharmacy allows me to share these passions with my patients and colleagues every day," says Danielle, who will be moving to Regina after

graduation to start her career as a community pharmacist.

Danielle receives the SCPP Campbell Prize with a four-year average of 89.07 per cent.

In her time at the University of Saskatchewan, she served as Canadian Association of Pharmacy Students and Interns (CAPSI) senior representative and fourth year representative, as well as Saskatchewan Pharmacy and Nutrition Students' Society (SPNSS) public relations officer.

Danielle is looking forward to exploring the varying areas of the profession and developing her personal approach to pharmacy practice.



## Academic Excellence Award - Kennadi Sitar

"I chose pharmacy as my profession because I wanted a career in health care, as I love working with people and I am also interested in pharmacology," says Kennadi Sitar, who grew up in Saskatoon.

Kennadi receives the Academic Excellence Award with an overall GPA of 85.3 per cent.

She has accepted a position with the Saskatchewan Health Authority and is thrilled at the prospect of practising to her full scope, continuous learning and all the new experiences she will get to have working as part of the health care team.



# Certificates of Recognition

## For their service on SCPP Committees:

Lyle Brandt  
Beverly Brooks  
Myla Bulych  
Zack Dumont  
Shauna Gerwing  
Kristjana Gudmundson  
Jeffrey Herbert  
Karen Jensen  
Deven Johnson  
Spiro Kolitsas  
Arlene Kuntz  
Monica Lawrence  
Sharon Lyons  
Shauna Nowakowski  
Carol Pannell  
Rizza Pardillo  
Manan Patel  
Tyler Sutter  
Margaret Wheaton  
Bridget Zacharias

## For their service on SCPP Council

Lyndsay Brakstad  
Bradley Cooper  
Kelly Hu  
Michelle Miller  
Jashvant Patel  
Scott Szabo  
George Thomas  
Marilyn Younghans

## Upon her retirement as SCPP Appointee to the University of Saskatchewan Senate

Christine Hrudka



# Competency Corner

One of SCPP's goals in its 2020-2024 strategic plan is to have functioning competency assurance and quality improvement programs.

## Background

Historically, regulatory authorities like SCPP have fulfilled their public protection mandate by ensuring health care professionals were competent at the point of entry to practice. They also developed systems to ensure the continuing provision of safe and effective care, initially through investigating patient complaints. As knowledge of disease, treatments and the practice of health professionals evolved, however, regulatory authorities recognized the need for health care practitioners to continuously learn and added mandatory continuing education and professional development requirements.

A 2016 report concluded that continuing professional development is a "necessity to ensure ongoing competency of professional practice," and that "it is actually the longest and most important component of the educational process. Moreover, there is a need for some standardized mechanism of measurement and reporting to provide the public with reassurance that professionals are adequately partaking in this process of maintaining competence over the decades in which they will be practising."<sup>i</sup>

## Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided an obvious example of how pharmacy

practice has had to adapt and adapt quickly, though patients' needs and expectations of pharmacy professionals have shifted and expanded continuously for decades.

Pharmacy practice has evolved from pharmacists being the preparers of medication, to the distributors of medication, to a third wave of clinical and pharmaceutical care which has been with us for more than half a century.

To respond to the demands of these changes, pharmacy education programs have transformed their curriculums, and scope of practice regulations and policies have broadened to authorize pharmacists to provide a range of patient-care services. Pharmacy technician roles have been expanded and formalized through provincial regulatory authorities.

Despite these changes, patients continue to experience preventable harm from medications, and health systems face continued medication-related inefficiencies through preventable ER visits, admissions, and re-admissions. Despite practising pharmacists and pharmacy technicians expanding their practice to include, for example, provision of care for minor ailments, medication review, extending of prescriptions and provision of immunizations, pharmacy professionals have identified a range of challenges that limit their ability to fully put their knowledge and skills into practice daily.

## A Way Forward

SCPP's mandate requires it to offer a competency assurance program that consistently and effectively enables quality care and services to be provided by Saskatchewan pharmacy professionals. SSCP's program should enable Saskatchewan pharmacy professionals to provide safe, quality services and care that enhance public safety, with processes that can be measured and benchmarked against key performance indicators.

Over 784 pharmacists and 157 pharmacy technicians responded to

SCPP's 2019 survey on competency assurance, and it yielded valuable insights about self-assessment and self-directed learning, possibly including a mixture of accredited and non-accredited learning, and the need for a program that is simple to navigate and track.

The Competency Assurance Committee – now the Competency Assurance Program Task Force with newly contracted consultant pharmacist and competency expert, Nancy Winslade – will take these insights together with best practices and research across Canada to develop a draft competency assurance program.

Your feedback and engagement will be vital in the coming months as the work continues.

## Timeline to Date

- ▶ May 2019 – Members participate in a Competency Assurance Survey to assess pharmacy professionals' needs and preferences in continuing professional development.
- ▶ June 2019 – First meeting of the newly formed Competency Assurance Committee/Working group, tasked with revamping the College's competency assurance program.
- ▶ 2020 – Delays due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- ▶ March 2021 – Pharmacist Nancy Winslade is contracted to lead the working group in developing a comprehensive, supportive competency assurance program.

<sup>i</sup> "Professional Quality Assurance and Competency Assessment – A Scoping Review" 2016, by Lesley Young BScPhm Pharm D, Paul AM Geroory BA MLS, and Zubin Austin BScPhm MBA MSc PhD

# Doctors and Compounds for 'Office Use Only'

Pharmacies can only prepare a compound pursuant to a prescription, otherwise this practice is considered manufacturing. See [section 11 of Part L](#) of SCPP Regulatory Bylaws as well as [Health Canada Policy 5.1](#).

For the purpose of providing compounds to doctors for office use supplies, the doctor must provide a valid prescription to the pharmacy indicating that the compound is for office use. Providing prescriptions for office use is only authorized when it is for office use under the prescribing physician's supervision within their own office.

A pharmacy cannot fill a prescription for office use that is to be used within a business that is not under the physician's supervision (e.g., an office use prescription for a topical compounded product for use in an aesthetics salon).

When providing an office use compound, the pharmacist may wish to advise the practitioner that their own regulatory body has [record-keeping requirements](#) for office use medications.



Before preparing any compound, pharmacists must confirm there is not already a commercially available product.

Compounds cannot be prepared for commercially available products as this is considered manufacturing and requires a Drug Establishment Licence from Health Canada.

## Ability of Pharmacist to Possess Cannabis for Repackaging

Recently the question was asked whether a pharmacist is authorized under the [Cannabis Act](#) and Cannabis Regulations to obtain a patient's personal supply of cannabis and re-package it for the patient (e.g., to put in their compliance packages along with their other medications)?

Would the pharmacist be authorized to be in possession of the cannabis for this person or would they need to have been designated as the individual responsible for the patient under section 266(1)(d) or (e)?

The Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch (CSCB) is responsible for developing and implementing legislation, regulations, policies and operational programs that support the control of cannabis.

The licensing framework for cannabis would not permit the above activity: to repackage cannabis for distribution to a patient for medical purposes.

The licence for sale for medical purposes authorizes the licence holder to sell and send or deliver cannabis products to a registered patient. The licence holder for sale is not authorized to alter the cannabis and, furthermore, as per subsection 27(2) of the [Cannabis Regulations](#), they can only sell a cannabis product in the original packaging in which it was received from the federal processing licence holder.

Only an individual who is 18 years or older can act as the responsible person (an individual referred to in 266(1)(d) or (e)). An organization as defined in section 2 of the [Criminal Code](#) cannot. An organization is defined in the [Criminal Code](#) as:

- 2 (a) a public body, body corporate, society, company, firm, partnership, trade union or municipality, or*
- (b) an association of persons that*
  - (i) is created for a common purpose,*
  - (ii) has an operational structure, and*
  - (iii) holds itself out to the public as an association of persons.*

As an alternate option, a pharmacist could apply for an exemption to the prohibitions on possession, distribution, and production under subsection 140(1) of the [Cannabis Act](#) if the exemption is necessary for a medical or scientific purpose or is otherwise in the public interest.

Additional information on cannabis for health professionals can be found on [Health Canada's website](#).

*Information taken from a question posed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) to the Cannabis Compliance Directorate of the Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch.*



# New Requirements for 2021-2022 Permit Renewal

The following new requirements will need to be met in order to renew your Pharmacy Permit during this year's permit renewal (which opens on Sept. 15, 2021):

- The pharmacy must have submitted a Medication Safety Self-Assessment (MSSA) within the last two years; and
- The pharmacy manager must meet section 11(1)(a)-(d) (Pharmacy Manager Requirements) of Part I of the SCPP Regulatory Bylaws.

Please note that these requirements are in addition to requirements already in place.

## MSSA

Any pharmacies that have not yet completed an MSSA or have an outstanding MSSA (last MSSA submitted on or before Jan. 1, 2020) will not be able to renew their pharmacy permit.

Therefore, in order to complete permit renewal which runs from Sept. 15 to Nov. 1, pharmacies' MSSA must be up to date.

The MSSA is a SCPP Regulatory Bylaw requirement (section 12(2)(b) of Part I) and must be completed at least once every two years. On a weekly basis, ISMP Canada provides SCPP a list of the pharmacies that have completed a Medication Safety Self-Assessment (MSSA) and the date completed. This list also includes which pharmacies have not yet completed an MSSA and those that are still in progress.

Pharmacy managers can check the date of their last MSSA submission as well as the due date for their next MSSA submission in the Membership Information section on the homepage of their Pharmacy Manager Portal.

If the information in your Pharmacy Manager Portal is incorrect, please contact [info@saskpharm.ca](mailto:info@saskpharm.ca). For information on how to complete the MSSA, please see the [Medication](#)

[Safety Self-Assessment \(MSSA\) Quick Start Guide](#). The date of the last MSSA can also be found on the Community Pharmacy Incident Reporting (CPHIR) system, in the MSSA section (last complete MSSA has an arrow beside the date).

## Pharmacy Manager Requirements

In November 2020, new bylaws pertaining to pharmacy managers were implemented.

Pharmacy managers must now meet section 11(1)(a)-(d) of Part I of the SCPP Regulatory Bylaws in order to qualify to become and remain a pharmacy manager.

The training pertaining to subsection 11(1)(e) is still in development and will not be a requirement for permit renewal this year. SCPP will formally announce the launch of pharmacy manager training which is expected in early 2022.



# CONSULTATION

## NAPRA Public Consultation on Culture of Professionalism

The National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) invites all pharmacy professionals, pharmacy stakeholders, and members of the public to provide feedback on the [draft Principles of Professionalism](#). They are encouraging sharing these documents as widely as possible.

Recognizing the importance of a strong culture of professionalism, the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), along with pharmacy professionals and pharmacy stakeholders, has developed eight principles of professionalism.

These principles, applicable to all who work and contribute to the profession of pharmacy, represent the first steps towards enhancing the culture of professionalism in pharmacy practice. A [comprehensive paper](#) on the topic of the culture of professionalism in pharmacy has been written and is available for background reading.

The consultation process opened June 4 and will continue until Aug. 3, 2021. Feedback can be provided here: [Feedback Form](#)

Questions about the consultation process can be directed to [professionalism@napra.ca](mailto:professionalism@napra.ca).

## Welcome New SCPP Staff



**Joanne Deibert, Complaints Investigator - Contract**

Joanne has been a practicing pharmacist since 2015. She has a variety of work experience under her belt including retail, specialty, and academia. She joined SCPP in April 2021 and continues to expand her experience and development as a professional.



**Melissa Weger, Registration Administrator – Member Relations - Term**

Melissa joined the SCPP team in March with over 20 years of administrative and customer service experience. Her background in the travel industry has furnished her with a diverse skill set that she is thrilled to use in her new role.



**Jennifer Koskie, Field Officer**

Jennifer joined SCPP in April 2021. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Saskatchewan in 2012. Her experience includes a variety of community pharmacy positions, including as a relief pharmacist, clinical pharmacy work, and several years as a pharmacy manager. She is delighted to join the team at SCPP as a Field Officer.



**Steven Yakiwchuk, Field Officer**

Steve completed his Pharmacy degree at the U of S in 2005 and joined SCPP in May of 2021. He brings a wide range of experience from his years in community pharmacies that comprises practising in independent and chain pharmacy environments, in both clinical and management roles. He has an interest in travel health and holds a certificate in travel health from ISTM. He is excited for the opportunity to contribute to the SCPP team.

# Spotlight on Prevention

## Medication Diversion

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals Complaints Committee wants to remind its members that not all medication diversion can be identified through regular narcotic/*Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) counts. In the past two years, the Complaints Committee has investigated matters of medication diversion by various methods:

### 1. Adjustment of on-hand inventory.

- ▶ SCPP investigated a complaint where various on-hand medication inventories were manually adjusted regularly for over a decade, resulting in thousands of missing units of medication. During the inspection, the on-hand counts appeared correct. However, in reviewing the drug inventory history report, it was apparent that the on-hand counts had been manually adjusted hundreds of times resulting in a large medication loss.
- ▶ SCPP recommends that when doing narcotic reconciliation, to also review manual inventory adjustments. More [information here](#).
- ▶ Note that only approved persons are able to make manual adjustments and each person should have a unique identifier and password.
- ▶ When making manual inventory adjustments, ensure a specific reason is documented (i.e., date, specific reason for adjustment, initials of who is making the entry). References to dates of narcotic counts or invoices is recommended for audit purposes when applicable.
- ▶ Prescription Review Medications

should also be reviewed for accurate counts and possible manual inventory adjustments, as these are commonly sought-after medications for off-label use and misuse.

- ▶ SCPP recommends that all pharmacy managers and staff are aware of the SCPP Policy. See [Narcotic and Controlled or Targeted Substances Reconciliation](#).
- ### 2. Removal of medication from the 'dead drug' bin waiting for destruction.
- ▶ SCPP has investigated two complaints of members who removed medications from the pharmacy's 'dead drug' bin, both for personal use and for diversion purposes.
  - ▶ SCPP and Health Canada recommend that all CDSA and PRP medication waiting for destruction are inventoried and verified before destruction, to ensure that diversion has not occurred through this method. See [Destruction of Controlled Substances](#).
- ### 3. Removal of medication from filled prescriptions waiting to be picked up.
- ▶ SCPP has investigated a complaint of a member who was removing medication from filled prescriptions waiting for pickup, both for personal use and for diversion purposes.
  - ▶ This instance of diversion was caught by astute pharmacy personnel who were monitoring a specific staff member for missing medication.
  - ▶ SCPP recommends doing random prescription counts of PRP medications waiting for

pickup to ensure this method of diversion is not occurring in your pharmacy.

As always, any loss or theft of CDSA medication is to be reported to Health Canada and SCPP within 10 days of discovery of the loss.

- [Narcotic and Controlled Drugs – Loss or Theft Report Form \(Health Canada\)](#)
- [Narcotic and Controlled Drugs – Narcotic and Controlled or Targeted Substances Reconciliation](#)
- [Narcotic and Controlled Drugs – Destruction of Controlled Substances](#)

## Eligibility of Common Vaccines

A patient presented with a prescription from a local physician for Gardasil-9 vaccination series at a Saskatchewan pharmacy. It was dispensed at the appropriate intervals.

Upon administration of the final vaccine, the injecting physician notified the patient that she was eligible to have received the series at no charge from Public Health.

The prescribing physician, dispensing pharmacists as well as 811 registered nurses all did not know the patient was eligible to receive this through Public Health. This led to finding the correct information, checking eligibility and responsibilities.

The pharmacy professionals found the eligibility criteria for Gardasil-9 in the Saskatchewan Immunization Manual. They have now bookmarked the [digital manual](#) and have educated staff on the eligibility of the more common vaccines that are dispensed through the pharmacy, to help educate future patients on their options.



# Bylaw and Policy Updates

## Bylaw Updates

The Minister of Health approved regulatory bylaw amendments to:

### Extended Intern Category

The Extended Intern category authorizes Pharmacy Technicians who have graduated, but not yet completed the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Structured Practical Training and Assessment (SPTA) Program (or an equivalent program approved by Council) or passed their PEBC exams to continue to be registered with the SCPP as Interns.

Pharmacy Technician Interns may work in Saskatchewan (under the immediate supervision and in the presence of a licensed Pharmacist or a licensed Pharmacy Technician) for up to 12 months after graduation. This 12-month time-frame may be extended by the Registrar under extenuating circumstances.

These amendments align Pharmacy Technician registration categories and time-frames with Pharmacist registration categories and time-frames.

### Registration Requirements

- A repetitive registration requirement for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians (to provide the SCPP with evidence of holding (or being granted) a Certificate of Qualification from the PEBC) has been removed, as the PEBC sends the SCPP a list of individuals (via secured email) who have been granted the Certificate of Qualification. By removing this repetitive registration requirement, the amendments optimize the registration process for the SCPP and simplify/optimize the application.
- Pharmacist applicants who have graduated from the University of Saskatchewan are now required to write a SCPP's jurisprudence exam prior to registering as a member of the SCPP. The jurisprudence exam assesses a writer's knowledge of the legislation (federal, provincial) applicable to the pharmacy



profession, and the Standards, Guidelines and Policy Statements contained in the SCPP Pharmacy Reference Manual. The exam is designed to ensure that applicants have an appropriate level of understanding of the legislated requirements to safely practice pharmacy in Saskatchewan.

The exam has been developed to withstand legal scrutiny and to meet independent testing standards. The requirement to write a jurisprudence exam prior to becoming members of the SCPP aligns membership registration requirements with all other SCPP members and is also a requirement by most other Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities in Canada.

### Outdated Bylaws, Correct Administrative Oversights, Restructure Bylaws

Outdated Pharmacy Technician membership registration bylaws were removed, administrative errors were corrected, and current bylaws were restructured for improved readability and understanding.

Continued on next page ►

## COVID-19 Point-of-Care Testing

The Minister approved amendments to authorize licensed pharmacists to perform point-of-care testing in community pharmacies (in extraordinary circumstances) and provide the results of these tests under terms and conditions specified by the SCPP in cooperation with public health authorities. The amendments also correct administrative oversights.

When enabled, Licensed Pharmacists:

- May perform point-of-care tests that: are indicated to assist with the management of drug therapy; may be for purposes other than services provided by the licensed pharmacist; are for patients where a professional relationship does not exist; and are authorized pursuant to *The Medical Laboratory Licensing Act, 1994*, *The Medical Laboratory Licensing Regulations, 1995* and other applicable provincial legislation.
- May provide test results to pharmacy staff and patients (if required to fulfill public health interventions): for purposes other than the management of drug therapy; for purposes other than services provided by the licensed pharmacist; and to patients where a professional relationship does not exist; and
- Must take appropriate follow-up action in accordance with provincial health authorities who call upon pharmacy professionals to assist with health services as required to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

SCPP is working closely with the Ministry of Health and other health system partners to ensure that pharmacy COVID-19 testing activities align with the Public Health direction to keep the Saskatchewan public safe. Pharmacies and pharmacists who are participating in the provincial testing strategy must do so under the terms and conditions specified by the Ministry of Health and SCPP.

Laboratory activities that are not authorized as part of the provincial testing strategy, must follow the normal provisions of *The Medical Laboratory Licensing Act* and [Part M of the SCPP regulatory bylaws](#) and Council policy. See [Laboratory Tests – Accessing, Ordering, Performing, Using or Interpreting](#); [Disease State Monitoring, Screening, Testing or Risk Assessment Activities](#); and [Distribution of Diagnostic Products and Laboratory and Diagnostic Testing](#).

These amendments will help to ensure the health and safety of the public by increasing the availability of COVID-19 tests and test results for Saskatchewan residents and visitors.

Members are asked to continue monitoring the SCPP website and communication for more information on SCPP expectations as they participate in the provincial testing strategy.

## Formerly Licensed Pharmacists, Pharmacist Interns and Pharmacy Technicians Exempt from Part L

Amendments were approved to exempt formerly licensed pharmacists, pharmacist extended interns, pharmacist interns, and pharmacy technicians from Part L – Pharmacist Authority: Administration of Drugs by Injection and Other Routes, while also ensuring that these professionals and community pharmacies have access to the training and competency requirements for the administration of drugs via advanced method.

The Ministry of Health recently amended *The Disease Control Regulations* (referred to as *The Disease Control (COVID-19) Amendment Regulations, 2021*) under *The Public Health Act, 1994* to authorize formerly licensed pharmacists, pharmacist extended interns, pharmacist interns, and pharmacy technicians to inject COVID-19 vaccines.

Sections within Part L of the SCPP Regulatory Bylaws limit the administration of drugs via advanced method to only licensed pharmacists. The approved amendments ensure the SCPP Regulatory Bylaws do not prevent other authorized pharmacy professionals from administering drugs via advanced method (including COVID-19 vaccines and any additional vaccines that may be authorized by the Ministry of Health in the future).

The regulations establishing the program and non-traditional immunizers is designed to sunset or end on January 1, 2022.

These amendments help to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines (and any future authorized vaccines) are provided safely and in a timely manner to the public.

## Addition of Lemborexant to Monitored Drugs (CPSS Bylaw Update)

The 2019 Provincial Auditor Report recommended regular review and update to the Prescription Review Program's Panel of Monitored Drugs.

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Lemborexant (PrDayvigo™) was approved for use in Canada in November 2020, classified as a miscellaneous anxiolytic sedative and hypnotic and indicated for the treatment of insomnia, characterized by difficulties with sleep onset and/or sleep maintenance. By initiating monitoring of this drug, data can be collected to help control polypharmacy and misuse involving medications that can significantly influence consciousness and functional capacity.

At the June 2021 College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS) Council meeting, they approved addition of lemborexant to CPSS Regulatory Bylaw 18.1 (Panel of Monitored Drugs). Once the bylaw amendment is approved by the Minister, communications will be sent to physicians and pharmacy professionals regarding the prescribing and dispensing requirements. Stay tuned.

## Reference Manual Updates

### MAID Standards

The [MAID Standards](#) Reference Manual document has gone through a significant overhaul.

Amendments to the Criminal Code came into force in March 2021, permitting pharmacy technicians to be involved in the MAID process so long as it is consistent with their scope of practice and laws of the province.

This document clarifies the scope of practice and dispensing procedures that apply to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, specific to MAID in Saskatchewan. It also contains provisions of the Criminal Code and the consequences when pharmacists and pharmacy technicians knowingly disregard the MAID laws.

In Saskatchewan, the MAID program is led by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). Community pharmacies are not permitted to be involved in any aspect of the MAID process. However, information has been provided to identify when a request is part of the provincial MAID program, for which community pharmacies do not have a role. It also highlights situations where a prescription for regular pharmacy services may be provided by the community pharmacy for a patient, who has requested MAID, but it is not a part of the MAID program.

### Admin by Injection

[Administration by Injection Guidelines](#) and the [Admin by Injection FAQs](#) have been revised to provide more guidance on:

- Council's updated policy on [AMC training](#) when AMC has lapsed or a member has not injected in 24 months;
- Information management/flow that is critical for continued patient care (see Section 5 Documentation, Reporting, Notification); and
- AEFI reporting including obtaining appropriate information before administering for a patient who reports a previous AEFI (see Section 4.1.1.) and expectations for follow up and documentation of an AEFI (see Section 5.3.).



### Privacy Documents

SCPP's privacy policy and guideline documents have been reviewed and updated by SCPP's corporate solicitor. Below is a summary of these updates in addition to minor formatting changes for consistency.

Of particular note are:

- [Privacy Officer Bylaw and Interpretive Guidelines](#)
  - ▶ Additional comments inserted on the difference between 'a' trustee and 'the' trustee under HIPA based on the guidance provided by the OIPC.
- [Data Sharing Agreement Template for Non-Trustees](#)
  - ▶ Included additional provisions based off the OIPC's resource Best Practices for Information Sharing Agreements (Office of the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner Best Practices for Information Sharing Agreements: <https://oipc.sk.ca/assets/best-practices-for-information-sharing-agreements.pdf>.)

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The rest were updated as follows:

- [Disclosure of Personal Health Information to Law Enforcement Authorities Guidelines for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians](#)
  - ▶ Changes to Criminal Code provisions based on statutory amendments; and
  - ▶ Wording changes to “Situations Where Disclosure is Discretionary” section based on OIPC guide to HIPA.
- [Disclosure of Personal Health Information to Third Parties – Position Statement](#)
  - ▶ Reference to [Pharmacy Privacy Officer Bylaw and Interpretive Guidelines](#) for further information on who constitutes the “trustee” under HIPA.
- [Guidelines for Use and Disclosure of Personal Health Information for Secondary Purposes](#)
  - ▶ Reference to Pharmacy Privacy Officer Bylaw and Interpretive Guidelines for further information on who constitutes a “trustee” under HIPA; and
  - ▶ Provide a link to the OIPC’s guide to information sharing agreements.
- [Privacy Policies and Procedures – Template for the Pharmacy](#)
  - ▶ Update to address to privacy breach response and notification requirements;
  - ▶ Update of the definition of trustee under HIPA;
  - ▶ Inclusion of additional language regarding “need-to-know” basis for disclosure; and
  - ▶ Other minor updates and clarifying revisions.
- [Privacy Policies of SCPP](#)
  - ▶ This document was last reviewed in 2019 and so no substantive changes are required from a legal perspective. However, the document (and appendices) should be reviewed from a business perspective to ensure it accurately reflects SCPP’s current operations.
- [HIPA and PIPEDA – Preparing your Community Pharmacy](#)
  - ▶ Minor revisions to update for currency and to add references to resources; and
  - ▶ Inclusion of reference to mandatory breach reporting and associated policies.
- [Community Pharmacy Privacy Officer – Suggested Position Description](#)
  - ▶ Minor formatting changes; and
  - ▶ Added responsibility based on OPC guidance.

The below were reviewed from a privacy perspective and received minor formatting changes for consistency:

- [Patient Confidentiality and the Release of Confidential Records](#)
- [Powers of Attorney, Health Care Directives, and Substitute Decision Makers Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Powers of Attorney, Health Care Directives, and Substitute Decision Makers Guidelines for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians](#)
- [Release of Confidential Records of Minors to Parents/Guardians](#)
- [Pharmacy Manager Responsibilities](#)

## Work in Progress

### Inclusive Language

Over the past several years, as sections of the bylaws have been reviewed, they have been updated with more inclusive language

While our work on amending the SCPP bylaws over the last year has necessarily had to focus on emergency provisions and COVID-19, we understand the importance of making the language of the bylaws more inclusive and this important work continues to be on our agenda. ■





## From the Desk of the Dean

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition was a very different place this year with the shift to online learning, but I've been impressed with how our faculty, staff and students adapted.

The university has recently announced an increase in on-campus activity for the fall semester, with a return to regular activity planned for the winter semester. The university's Safe Return Transition Plan can be found on the COVID-19 response website. [Read more.](#)

Congratulations to the Pharmacy and Nutrition Classes of 2021! The university celebrated convocation virtually again this year, and you can watch the following videos from the celebrations:

- The convocation ceremonies were streamed live and the recordings can be viewed on YouTube. The Pharmacy and Nutrition section begins at 1:01:50 with a speech from the Dean and followed by recognizing our most distinguished graduates, **Ghita Benadballah** in pharmacy and **Ken Mullock** in nutrition. [Watch the video.](#)



- The faculty and staff celebrated our new graduates with video messages on Facebook as they were unable to do so in person. [Watch the video.](#)
- Pharmacy valedictorian **Lara Carlson** provided her speech in a Facebook video. [Watch the video.](#)
- Nutrition valedictorian **Ken Mullock** also provided his speech in a Facebook video. [Watch the video.](#)

Each year, awards are presented to our graduating students at the spring convocation ceremony and other events throughout the day. While we were unable to celebrate in person this year, please see [our award-winning graduates here.](#)

Every June, each college has the chance to feature one new graduate on the university's news website. This year,



*Dr. Katelyn Halpape*



*Dr. Derek Jorgenson*

Ken M. was chosen for his positive impact online and in the community. [Read more.](#)

Nearly 150 student volunteers from the college have signed up in droves to help deliver COVID-19 vaccines during Phase 2 of the provincial immunization plan. [Read more.](#)

**Dr. Katelyn Halpape** received the 2021 Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching for the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. [Read more.](#)

**Dr. Derek Jorgenson** received a 2020-21 University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) Teaching Excellence Award. [Read more.](#)

Eat Well Saskatchewan Director **Carrie Verishagen** received a 2021 Member Recognition Award in Innovation from Dietitians of Canada. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Carol Henry is the lead researcher of an international team awarded \$100,000 from the Templeton World Charity Foundation for work aimed at seeing young women on two continents thrive. [Read more.](#)

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. **Drs. Anas El-Aneed** and **Brian Bandy** will fill these roles effective July 1, 2021.

For the latest news from the college, visit our website: [pharmacy-nutrition.usask.ca](http://pharmacy-nutrition.usask.ca)

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



# 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](http://www.pebc.ca).

## Pharmacist Schedule of Exams

Examination Name	Examination Date	Application Deadline Date*
November 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*
September Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Examination	MCQ: Sept. 13, 2021	Deadline passed.
	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!

