Notice:

To: Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians

From: the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists

Date: October 2014

Re: Immunization notification, consent and documentation

Now that immunization season has arrived, the NSCP has been receiving questions regarding the requirements for notification of primary care providers, for patient consent, and for documentation. The following memo is a reminder of the expectations in these areas.

Notification:

In keeping with best practice for continuity of patient care and collaborative care, the Standards of Practice: Drug Administration require that the pharmacist communicate the drug administration details to the patient’s primary care provider in every instance when a drug has been administered by injection by providing the completed Drug Administration Notification Form to the primary care provider and/or other health care professionals within 24 hours or as soon as possible following administration.

Note that the Reciprocal Notification Form, which is required by Public Health for other vaccines on the provincial immunization schedule, is NOT required for the flu vaccine.

Consent:

In order to ensure the patient has sufficient information to allow him or her to make an informed decision regarding consent to the drug administration, the pharmacist is required to obtain informed and voluntary consent by having a conversation with the patient. This ensures that the patient (or their agent) has sufficient information, including the nature, purpose and utility, risks and benefits of receiving the vaccine, and alternatives when appropriate, to make an informed decision regarding consent to the administration of the drug. Signed consent is not a requirement of the NSCP, although third party payers may have their own requirements for purposes of reimbursement.
Documentation:

In accordance with the *Standards of Practice: Drug Administration*, S.3.10, pharmacists shall record the drug administration details in the patient record, including acknowledgment of the patient’s consent.

These requirements will help to ensure the provision of safe and effective care and ongoing success as pharmacists continue to play an important role in improving immunization rates and combating vaccine-preventable diseases in Nova Scotia.

Reference: NSCP Standards of Practice: Drug Administration and FAQ's.