Notice:

To: Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Pharmacy Managers, and Pharmacy Owners

From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists (NSCP)

Date: October 2014

Re: Important Reminder about PMP Double Doctoring Messages

Pharmacies were recently provided with a notice from the NS Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) regarding the current status of messaging from PMP in relation to the implementation of the provincial Drug Information System (DIS).

Potential double doctoring messages (i.e. NE) that pharmacies receive from PMP at the time of dispensing are based only on claims specific to the system being used by that pharmacy. Therefore, pharmacies that process claims directly to the PMP via POS will only receive this messaging based on claims dispensed at other pharmacies using POS. Pharmacies that transmit claims through this DIS will only receive this messaging based on claims dispensed at other DIS pharmacies.

In other words, pharmacies connected to the DIS will only receive messaging based upon claims sent to PMP from other DIS-connected pharmacies, but not from pharmacies that are not yet connected to the DIS. Similarly, pharmacies that have not yet connected to the DIS will only receive messaging from claims to PMP by other pharmacies that have not connected to the DIS, but not from pharmacies that are now connected to the DIS.

Therefore the potential double doctoring messages currently received by pharmacies at the time of dispensing are not be based on all prescriptions filled in Nova Scotia. Until such time as all pharmacies are participating in the DIS, it is important that pharmacists use professional judgment when filling PMP prescriptions and utilize the PMP’s eAccess service to review patient profile information prior to dispensing. The eAccess web application has a complete list of PMP claims regardless of whether dispensing occurs at a DIS or non-DIS (POS) pharmacy.

Checking eAccess prior to dispensing will help to ensure that situations of potential double doctoring can be identified and appropriate action can be taken before a monitored drugs is dispensed.
To register for eAccess, a registration and user agreement form must be completed and faxed to the PMP at 902.481.3157. The forms are available on the NS PMP website at:

http://www.nspmp.ca/forms.php