To: Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians

Date: January 8, 2016

Re: Sale of Exempted Codeine Preparations

Pharmacists are encouraged to review the recently updated NSCP Sale of Exempted Codeine Preparations Position Statement posted on the Policies Positions Guidelines page on the NSCP website.

In addition to reinforcing the practice expectations when providing exempted codeine preparations, the updated position statement highlights important considerations for pharmacists when providing these products: the risk of dependence when opioids are used in adolescents between the age of 12 and 18 years, the risk of serious side effects attributed to codeine in patients under the age of 12, and the risks to all age groups regarding the consumption of large amounts of acetaminophen.

NOTE: It is essential that patients have only ONE record in the Drug Information System (DIS). Please read the Nova Scotia DIS Pharmacy Bulletin regarding selecting patients from the Client Registry (CR) and avoiding the creation of duplicate patient records (the link to the DIS Bulletin is only accessible by DIS connected pharmacies [via the DIS Support Website]).