Professional Memorandum

To: Pharmacy Managers, Pharmacists, Certified Dispensers, and Pharmacy Technicians

From: NSCP Council

Date: February 19, 2016

Re: Revised effective date of the Pharmacy Practice Management Systems (PPMS) Requirements

Introduction

In an effort to ensure that the pharmacy computer software systems used by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians adequately support them as they provide care to their patients, the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) developed the “Pharmacy Practice Management Systems: Requirements to Support NAPRA’s Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists” (PPMS).

This document provides instruction to pharmacists, pharmacy managers, pharmacy owners, pharmacy practice management system vendors, and developers of federal/provincial/territorial electronic health records about the minimum functionality required by systems used in pharmacy practice in order for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to comply with their respective standards of practice.

In March 2014, Council adopted NAPRA’s PPMS document, which specified that the requirements would be effective on January 1, 2016. A Professional Memo was sent to registrants advising them of the document and the January 1, 2016 effective date.

Council’s Consideration

Council is aware that pharmacy software vendors in Nova Scotia are making changes to meet the requirements of the PPMS document as part of their work in revising the software so that it is able to submit prescriptions to the Nova Scotia Drug Information Systems (DIS). While most pharmacies have the updated software and are connected to DIS, some do not and as such it is reasonable to believe may not be meeting all of the PPMS requirements. However, their pharmacy software vendors have indicated that they are on track to meet the NSCP’s target date of June 1, 2016 for being connected to DIS.

Part of Council’s consideration was that, while pharmacies not connected to DIS may not have software systems that meet all of the PPMS requirements, pharmacists are still meeting the rules and expectations of practice, including those pertaining to documentation and the safety and security of the pharmacy’s records, set out in the Pharmacy Act and its regulations, and the standards of practice and policies adopted by Council.

Council’s Decision

Council resolved to revise the effective date of the PPMS requirements from January 1st 2016 to June 30th 2016.

Pharmacy managers are reminded to ensure that, regardless, the pharmacy currently meets the rules and expectations of practice set out in the Pharmacy Act, its regulations and the standards and policies adopted by Council.

Pharmacy managers are encouraged to contact their pharmacy software vendors and advise them that they will need to provide the pharmacy manager with written assurance that the pharmacy’s software complies with the PPMS requirements by June 30, 2016.