Professional Memorandum

To: Pharmacists, Certified Dispensers, Pharmacy Technicians, Pharmacy Students and Interns
Date: October 5, 2017
Re: Revision to Notifications for Influenza Vaccine Administration

The NSCP is pleased to advise you that pharmacists are no longer required to provide a patient’s primary care provider with a Drug Administration Notification Form when they administer the influenza vaccine. The NSCP supports the provincial movement towards ‘One Person, One Record’ and sees discontinuing the faxing of the influenza vaccine administration forms as another step towards that important goal.

Since October 2016, all pharmacies submit the influenza vaccine administration to the patient’s record on the DIS. Subsequently, pharmacists have reported that completing the Drug Administration Notification Form duplicates the documentation they create in the patient’s provincial DIS record and takes time they would otherwise use to serve patients. The NSCP Council considered these concerns and approved a revision to the Standards of Practice: Drug Administration so that the influenza vaccine record created in the DIS now meets the requirement for communication of this vaccination to the primary health care provider.

This revision addresses pharmacists’ concerns of duplicate documentation and the prudent use of their time. It also addresses physicians’ concerns regarding the overwhelming volume of notifications received during flu season and the risk it creates of alert fatigue and obscuring of important faxes.

Authorized primary care providers in hospital and in community may view patients’ medication profiles, which include dispenses of influenza vaccinations, in the Drug Information System Portal (DIS). Information on the DIS and how to gain access is available on the Government of Nova Scotia’s Drug Information System website. Questions from primary health care providers regarding the DIS can be directed to DIS@novascotia.ca.

Please note that pharmacists must continue to notify primary health care providers of all other drug injections using the Drug Administration Notification Form. The change in notification requirements relates only to the influenza vaccine.

Pharmacists are encouraged to provide patients with documentation of their influenza vaccine to empower them to maintain a current record of their immunizations.

A notice of this change has been provided to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia, the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia and Doctors Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists