Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: July 13, 2018
Re: Valsartan Recall and Other Health Canada Safety Alerts

Health Canada provides information when there is a recall or other safety alert regarding medication, including recommendations for the public and affected patients and/or direction on “next steps” for healthcare practitioners. Health Canada’s information regarding the recent recall of valsartan is an example of such a notice.

As a reminder, Health Canada’s safety alert postings are automatically fed to the NSCP’s website under “Safety Advisories”. Pharmacy practitioners can keep current on all Health Canada updates by routinely checking this page on the NSCP’s website.

As the drug experts on the patient’s healthcare team, pharmacists have an important role to play in collaborating with the patient and their primary care provider to ensure the patient’s drug therapy needs continue to be met.

The Canadian Pharmacists Association and others are developing tools to support pharmacists in making recommendations and/or prescribing for alternative therapeutic agents. Additionally, it is important for pharmacists to use professional judgment and a patient centered approach in their decision making.