



Board Highlights



BOARD MEMBERS

Photo: from left to right

Robert Craigue

District 5 – Northern British Columbia

Kris Gustavson

Government Appointee

Jeremy Walden

Government Appointee

Bal Dhillon

District 8 – Pharmacy Technicians

Doug Kipp (Chair)

District 4 – Kootenay/Okanagan

Jeff Slater

Government Appointee

Jerry Casanova

District 7 – Community Hospitals

Blair Tymchuk

District 3 – Vancouver Island/Coastal

Bev Harris (Vice-Chair)

District 2 – Fraser Valley

Agnes Fridl Poljak

District 1 – Metropolitan Vancouver

Anar Dossa

District 6 – Urban Hospitals

Ryan Hoag

Government Appointee

Last week, I emailed you regarding some issues regarding bylaw changes, the pharmacy technician scope of practice, and the fees for both pharmacists and pharmacies. I believe these are positive measures and I'm proud of the work that was done at the table.

In this package of Board highlights, I'm very happy to announce a number of other initiatives that the College will be launching. One particular initiative, investigating alternatives to competency assessment, is one I believe to be quite positive. I am happy that we are moving ahead with looking at alternatives to the Knowledge Assessment Exam, but also ensuring that the College continues to have a robust quality assurance program moving forward.

- Doug Kipp

Alternatives Models for Competency Assessment

The Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) will report back to the College by September on a revised competency assessment program. The QAC has been asked to provide its analysis on the positives and negatives of any proposed program, as well as preliminary estimates on the cost. The QAC has also been asked to consider the possibility of risk-based audits and enhanced CE-Plus as part of the program. The College staff will also be investigating the implementation of minimum practice hours for registration renewal, and the use of the KA and/or internships for those returning to practice after time away.

It is important to note that the College is only looking at its options currently and that no final determination on PDAP, or what a future Quality Assurance program might look like has been made. We'll keep you posted moving forward.

Changes to Professional Practice Policies

The College has made two changes to professional practice policies regarding pharmacy references and emergency prescription refills. We will be communicating directly with you when these changes are put in place and what they mean for you.

In addition, the College is removing PPP-16 (Glucose and Cholesterol Testing by Pharmacists) as a professional practice policy. There is no legal impediment to pharmacists or pharmacy technicians in choosing to administer these tests, and the tests are indeed often self-administered by patients on their own. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are therefore free to perform these tests on patients if they have knowledge, skills, and abilities to do so in a safe and effective manner.

Board Highlights



OUR VISION

As the medication experts, registrants are professionals who apply their full knowledge, skills and abilities to achieve the best possible healthcare results through patient-centered care.

Our Mission

To protect the public by ensuring that College registrants provide safe and effective pharmacy care to help people achieve better health.

The policy was put in place prior to the transition to the Health Professions Act in 2009 and at a time when pharmacists were not providing the additional services they are today.

New Bylaw Review Process

Following the most recent round of Bylaw changes, the College will be instituting a new process for conducting bylaw review and revisions. This process will allow for increased feedback from our stakeholder groups, and will also include a much easier online system for stakeholders to make comment. The College hopes to create a more transparent, predictable and structured legislation review process.

This process has been informed by the lessons learned from the last round of Bylaw review, the College's first major review of its Bylaws since transition to the Health Professions Act. The suggested changes will also enable the College to better allocate appropriate resources and budget for this important function.

College provides additional support to PhORSEE project

The College has granted \$250,000 to the PhORSEE project out of the University of Victoria School of Health Information Science to fund a study designed to test improvements that will close gaps in medication communications that were identified in an earlier phase of the PhORSEE project. These newly-funded studies will focus on transitions of care for complex patients, where safety issues are typically highest. Researchers will work with a community of pharmacies and the overlapping division of family practice to adapt and apply best practices to medication communication between healthcare providers. This would include the improved access and use of tools, including PharmaNet.

The hope is that as a result of this work, health care professionals and their patients will be better served by improved medication communication and safety across the circle of care, supported by the most effective use of medication-focused eHealth tools such as PharmaNet.

The larger PhORSEE project has been financially supported by the College for some time. The College's funding is made possible by a larger grant to the College by the Ministry of Health to evaluate and fund research activities that lead to better patient care through the use of information technologies.

Changes to Fees

The College's proposed new fee structure eliminates a number of fees and reduces others. Some highlights of the proposed structure:

- student registration fee is eliminated
- annual registration fee for all pharmacists is set at \$530

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COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Safe and Effective Pharmacy Care

- slight increase in the annual pharmacy licence fee to \$1331. This new flat rate for all pharmacy licensure services allows for the elimination of 11 separate other smaller fees
- all other fees unchanged

The Board believes this change in structure will be welcomed by all pharmacy stakeholders as it reduces the fees paid by the majority of pharmacists, freezes the rates paid by pharmacy technicians, and eliminates the student fee entirely. The slight increase to the pharmacy licence fee also allows for the termination of 11 different fees (the requirement to submit the forms remains in place) associated with the licensing of a pharmacy.

Other fees remain at their current rates, including the annual registration fee for pharmacy technicians. The Board felt it important to keep the rate frozen until such time as the number of pharmacy technicians in the province increases and can be properly reviewed.

Bylaw Changes with revisions

The College Board approved a revised set of Bylaws at its meeting last Friday. However, originally proposed Bylaw changes prohibiting the provision of loyalty points/inducements on pharmacy purchases, establishing additional pharmacy licence types and creating a new definition for supervision have not been forwarded to government pending further review and refinement by the College.

The College has also not made any changes to the pharmacy technician scope of practice. Changes had been proposed in September, but after consultation with pharmacy technicians and the Ministry the changes have been shelved.

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