



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

Message from the Chair



The College has been working hard on delivering bylaw reforms in a number of areas that will enhance patient care. One of the key reforms that has attracted much attention from both members of the profession and from the public is the prohibition on providing loyalty points programs or incentives to patients.

Given the controversy, the College took considerable time to research the issues and concerns to gain an understanding of all perspectives. I am extremely happy to report that the Board, which consists of government appointed members, community pharmacists, hospital pharmacists and a pharmacy technician, unanimously voted in favour of prohibiting this practice.

Thank you to my fellow Board members for taking an unequivocal stand on this important ethical, professional and safety issue.

Doug Kipp, Chair

Loyalty Program/Incentives

College staff were directed to proceed with the final drafting of bylaws instituting a complete prohibition on paying incentives to patients in return for prescription drug purchases. These will be brought back at a future Board meeting for approval. The Board indicated that the provision of free parking, delivery services, Schedule 3 drugs, and points from credit cards to credit card holders be excluded from these bylaws.

Does your pharmacy dispense methadone? Changes are coming that will enhance care.

The Ministry of Health, The College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the College of Pharmacists have been working together on changes designed to improve the methadone maintenance treatment program in British Columbia. While the changes

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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.

are comprehensive, we believe they will lead to better patient care and, ultimately, better health outcomes for patients.

Later this year the College will roll out the changes and provide a number of educational opportunities where you will learn about the changes.

Changes to PDAP

The Board was briefed by Bob Craigue, the Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) on its work on developing alternatives for the Professional Development and Assessment Program. Enhanced CE-Plus and risk-based inspection models are now under development by the QAC.

The enhanced CE-Plus model could include a percentage of learning to be accredited, mandatory programs, and development of programs that provide support to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to understand and apply required practice standards. Evaluation of the current CE-Plus, which will complete its first annual cycle at the end of this month, will be conducted by the CE-Plus Sub-Committee and be completed before any changes could be implemented in the following year. Feedback from pharmacists and pharmacy technicians will form an important part of the evaluation so watch for your opportunity to participate.

The QAC is considering a number of options for the risk-based inspections model, including all aspects of identified risk and the time frames for these inspections. Viable options including the pros and cons of each, and the cost implications will be presented for the Board's consideration at its meeting in September.

Promoting Innovation in Community Pharmacy Practice through Precision Therapy

The College has granted \$200,000 to Corey Nislow, Associate Professor of the Sequencing Centre in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC. The grant will fund a groundbreaking initiative establishing a pharmacogenomics role for the community pharmacist.

This initiative has the potential to reduce the adverse drug reactions suffered by patients prescribed antipsychotic drugs by identifying those who are genetically predisposed to experiencing them. Community pharmacy will be the frontline of the project, making connections with patients to both collect the sample and then report back the results in a way the patient understands.

The College's funding is made possible by a larger grant to the College by the Ministry of Health to support patient safety through evidence based research of pharmaceutical services delivery in the province.

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Health Canada Inspections

The Board received a presentation from Jacqueline Oddi, a Health Canada inspector, on the work of the agency in British Columbia with a specific focus on their pharmacy inspection processes. The inspector also identified some of the problems they continue to see in pharmacies across BC and expressed an interest in working with the College in helping to educate pharmacists and pharmacy technicians on what they need to know in order to avoid these problems.

Patient Safety and Compounding

The College was updated on current compounding practices and standards across North America. Recent events in both the US and Canada have created pressure across all regulatory jurisdictions to review and make appropriate changes to ensure patient safety. The College is working with Federal and Provincial governments, as well as other pharmacy regulators to develop these changes.