

Board Highlights



Our Vision:

*Better health through excellence
in pharmacy.*

Our Mission:

*The College regulates the
pharmacy profession in the
public interest. We set and
enforce standards and promote
best practices for the delivery of
pharmacy care in British
Columbia.*

Knowledge Assessment Exam Suspended from Use as an Assessment Tool

The Knowledge Assessment (KA) Exam will no longer be used in any capacity by the College as a tool for assessment as a result of motions passed at this last meeting. With these motions, the KA Exam is no longer a requirement for those seeking to return to practice and the College is now reviewing structured practical training (SPT) and minimum practice hours as a replacement. This review will allow for the creation of a framework that will be presented to the Board for approval in November. The KA exam had previously been suspended as an assessment tool in the Professional Development and Assessment Program (PDAP) in February, 2013 with the launch of the development of the proposed Practice Review Program.

Focused Practice Reviews: Reviewing the Pharmacy and the Pharmacy Professionals in Real Time

With the end of the use of the KA Exam, the College has been rapidly moving forward in the development of the new practice review program made up of two components: the pharmacy, and the pharmacy professionals that work there. We are pleased to report that a substantial number of pharmacy professionals took the time to help us build a better program by identifying what you believe to be the unique challenges and benefits of this proposed new program, as well as what focus areas should be looked at when conducting a review of practices like yours. An analysis of this information is now underway and we will report those results back as soon as we have them.

A dedicated section on our [website](#) has also been established where you can find many of the details regarding the new program. The last ReadLinks also included an overview that can be found [here](#).

In anticipation of the changes that will come along with the move to the new focused practice review program, those who are currently non-practising or on the former pharmacist register and have been for more than ninety days, but less than six years, will no longer be required to complete the knowledge assessment exam before being reinstated. CE requirements, however, will need to be met, as will any other current requirement of reinstatement.

Meal Breaks and Quotas: Working Conditions Survey

Last fall, pharmacists were invited to participate in a survey conducted by UBC's Collaboration for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE) to help understand the views of pharmacists about current issues in pharmacy

Board Highlights



working environments. Specifically, we asked questions regarding workload in the pharmacy and possible impacts that pharmacists felt could or may have on patient safety.

The College is now looking more closely to get a well-rounded view of the issues raised in the survey. Adequate meal breaks and rest periods to prevent fatigue, and quotas and other distractions that interfere with a pharmacy professional's ability to practice in a safe and competent manner were all identified in the survey results as a current concern that may have negative impacts on patient care.

24 BC Pharmacists Receive ADAPT Certificate in Patient Care Skills

The College wishes to congratulate pharmacists for successfully completing the ADAPT program and receiving their Certificate in Patient Care Skills. With support provided by the College, these pharmacists were able to take advantage of this online, 7-module continuing education program developed by the Canadian Pharmacists' Association to help pharmacists enhance their patient care and medication management skills. Congratulations from the College to the following pharmacists who successfully completed the program:

Bil Ahira, <i>Burnaby</i>	Bojana Dzombeta, <i>Burnaby</i>
Cindy Larsen, <i>Gibsons</i>	Danielle Dzikowski, <i>Abbotsford</i>
Christine Harding, <i>Gibsons</i>	Jacqueline Buston, <i>Victoria</i>
Janice Yim, <i>Surrey</i>	Jeonghee Han, <i>Pitt Meadows</i>
John Schulmeister, <i>Prince Rupert</i>	Leah Smith, <i>Smithers</i>
Lutf-UI-Mannan Bajwa, <i>Surrey</i>	Mashid Poursartip, <i>Vancouver</i>
Maila Cecilia San Jose, <i>Surrey</i>	Navid Bayat, <i>Kelowna</i>
Nimisha Virani, <i>Vancouver</i>	Oswald Chu, <i>Courtenay</i>

Board Highlights



Patricia Scott, *Madeira Park*

Sharon Liu, *Vancouver*

Susan Wallis, *New Westminster*

Werner Umali, *Langley*

A news release congratulating these pharmacists and their dedication to quality enhancement in their practice was released by the College this week as part of the launch of our new strategic plan to raise public awareness. We look forward to congratulating the remaining pharmacists who are still completing the ADAPT program and we will continue to inform their peers and the public of their dedication to improving skills and enhancing quality of pharmacy care in BC.

We want to make sure congratulations are given where they are due. If you have previously received an ADAPT Certificate in Patient Care Skills and you would like to be included in a future news release or other communication from the College, please contact us directly at communications@bcpharmacists.org.

Changes to Veterinary Pharmacy Reference

[Professional Practice Policy 3](#) (Pharmacy References) has been amended. This amendment removes the requirement for a veterinary reference and replaces it with a requirement in the general disclaimer to address specialty practices by including illustrative examples such as veterinary, psychiatric, and geriatric practices.

Budget Approved for 2014-15

The Board passed the budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year which maintains the streamlined and reduced fee structure put in place during 2013, ensures the College meets its mandated responsibilities to protect the public, and continues to support pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who choose to pursue clinical skills development and allows for other quality initiatives as outlined in the College's strategic plan.

Draft Bylaws Posted for Public Comment

The College has posted draft bylaws for public comment on its [website](#). These draft bylaws, if passed, would do the following:

- Allow for electronic nominations and voting during Board elections;
- Identifies requirements that allow pharmacists currently holding injection authority to re-certify;

Board Highlights



- Create a new fee for a re-inspection of a pharmacy after a 2nd follow-up visit;
- Update the list of authorized schools; and,
- Complete a number of housekeeping changes.

To review the changes, or to provide any feedback, please visit our [website](#). Please note that all feedback must be received by May 6, 2014.

For Information: UBC Entry-level PharmD and Flexible PharmD

The Board was updated on the current state of development of UBC's proposed Entry-to-Practice PharmD and Flexible PharmD programs by Dean Michael Coughtrie and Professor Peter Loewen. More information on the [entry-to-practice PharmD](#) and the [flexible PharmD](#) are available on the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences website.

For Information: Methadone Concentration Transition Successful and Largely Smooth

The Board was also given a report on the rollout of the updated *PPP-66* (Methadone Maintenance Treatment) and the new *PPP-71* (Delivery of Methadone), with a focus on the public awareness initiatives launched by the College to ensure a smooth and safe transition to the new 10mg/ml commercially available formulation. The College is extremely happy that this transition went well, and wishes to thank pharmacists and pharmacy technicians across the province.