



Board Highlights



BOARD MEMBERS

Photo: clockwise from top left

Margaret Cleaveley

Government Appointee, Kamloops

John Scholtens

Government Appointee, Langley

Penny Denton

Government Appointee, Prince Rupert

John Hope

District 6 - Urban Hospitals

Bal Dhillon

Pharmacy Technician Observer

Randy Konrad (Chair)

District 1 - Metropolitan Vancouver

Bev Harris

District 2 - Fraser Valley

Doug Kipp

District 4 - Kootenay/Okanagan

Bruce Beley

District 7 - Community Hospitals

Jeff Slater

Government Appointee, Victoria

Chris Hunter

District 5 - Northern British Columbia

Allan Greene (Vice Chair)

District 3 - Vancouver Island/Coastal

The Board of the College of Pharmacists of BC (CPBC) met for their regularly scheduled Board meeting at the College office in Vancouver, BC on February 11, 2011. The following highlights, which were approved by the Board, summarize the key initiatives discussed.

Current Drug Shortage Situation

The Board directed the Registrar to forward a letter to the provincial Ministry of Health Services expressing the College's concern with respect to potential public safety issues arising from the ongoing shortage of medications in Canada.

AGM Resolutions discussed by Board

Given that this was the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following the November 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM) each of the three resolutions brought forward at the AGM were discussed by the Board.

Resolution 1, which was defeated at the AGM, asked: 'that the Board . . . consider eliminating the taking of verbal prescriptions from practitioners and also the elimination of the final check of the filled prescription from the community pharmacy technician's scope of practice'.

- In support of the resolution a Board member presented a motion that 'the College draft a bylaw change to eliminate from the scope of practice of community pharmacy technicians the ability to take verbal prescriptions from practitioners and perform the final check of the filled prescription'. The motion was defeated.
- The Board did however, direct the Registrar to bring to the April 2011 Board meeting a briefing note for Board's consideration which would call for the elimination of the taking of verbal prescriptions from all registrants (pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) in all pharmacy practice settings.

Resolution 2, which was carried at the AGM, asked: 'that the Board . . . consider amending the policy of restricting consideration and voting on matters at general meetings only to registrants attending in person, and instead open general meetings to all registrants including those attending at a distance through electronic means'.

- The Board was provided with a number of technology alternatives, including associated costs, which would accommodate this request.
- Although generally supportive of the intent of the resolution the Board expressed caution with respect to the cost relative to demand and directed the Registrar to bring, to the April 2011 Board meeting, a plan which would include the surveying of registrants to gauge potential participation in an AGM by electronic means.

Resolution 3, which was carried at the AGM, asked: 'that the Board . . . consider establishing policy whereby the College would indemnify a pharmacist involved in such a situation, when he or she is working with a regulated pharmacy tech'.

- The Board concluded that they do not have the authority to indemnify a registrant and were reminded that all registrants (pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) are required by legislation to carry liability insurance. As such the Board determined that no further action was required.

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Board member Margaret Cleaveley retires from Board

It was with regret yet much gratitude that the Board Chair accepted the resignation of government appointed Board member Margaret Cleaveley and acknowledged her many years of valuable contribution to upholding the mandate of the College.

Margaret, who resides in Kamloops and had been a member of the Board since 2005, played an integral role in navigating the College through a number of key initiatives including: the transition to the Health Professions Act (HPA), expanded scope of practice for pharmacists including prescription adaptation and immunization as well as the regulation of pharmacy technicians.

Amendment to Board's 2011 Meeting Schedule

Given constraints to meeting and hotel room availability in Vancouver during the weekend of November 26th as a result of the CFL Grey Cup, the Board amended their 2011 meeting schedule as follows:

- Thursday November 17, 2011 (Orientation Session)
- Friday November 18, 2011 (Regular Board Meeting)
- Saturday November 19, 2011 (Annual General Meeting)

Board approves change to PPP-58 Prescription Renewal Restrictions

Following a number of ongoing collaborative meetings, which included representatives from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (CPSBC), the BC Medical Association (BCMA), the Ministry of Health Services (MoHS) and the BC Pharmacy Association (BCPhA), the Board approved the following changes (outlined in the table below) to the current restrictions regarding the renewal of prescriptions by pharmacists. As directed by the Board the College will continue to work collaboratively to appropriately evolve additional restrictions regarding prescription adaptations.

Prescription Renewals	
PREVIOUS (as per Amendment to PPP-58 Orientation Guide)	NEW (approved by College Board February 11, 2011)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewals apply to stable, chronic conditions (same medication, with no change, for a minimum of six months). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewals apply to stable, chronic conditions (same medication, with no change). <i>Note: 'no change' is defined as usually a minimum of six months</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum renewal up to approximately six months from the date of the original prescription. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For whatever period of time felt appropriate as long as it does not exceed the expiry of the prescription. <i>Note: all prescriptions have an expiry of one year from the date the original prescription is written; oral contraceptives have a 2 year expiry date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For psychiatric medications renewals are reserved for pharmacists working in multi-disciplinary teams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For psychiatric medications renewals are reserved for pharmacists working in multi-disciplinary teams.
<p><i>Note: Grey shaded text indicates the 'new' restriction approved by the Board</i></p>	

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COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Safe and Effective Pharmacy Care

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.*

Board takes next step towards Advanced Practice Pharmacist (APP)

The Board accepted the recommendation, put forward in the Business Case Analysis submitted by the APP Working Group, to support the continued development, largely following the Alberta College of Pharmacists Additional Prescriptive Authority (APA) Program, of the establishment of an Advanced Practice Pharmacist (APP) registrant for the College of Pharmacists of BC.

Next steps, which are expected to take several years, involve; an in-depth analysis of the Alberta program, the establishment of assessment and credentialing standards and processes, the creation of standards, limits and conditions for additional prescribing authority, extensive stakeholder consultation and the securing of necessary legislative changes to pharmacists scope of practice.

Additional changes to Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Standards approved by Board

Subsequent to the Board's initial approval of the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Standards at the November 2010 Board meeting, the Ethics Advisory Committee, as a result of some additional feedback, brought forward final revised documents for the Board's approval.

The suggested revisions did not alter the integrity of the original documents and in many cases provided further clarity. Following an in-depth discussion and deliberation the Board approved a final Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Standards which will now be forwarded to the Ministry for their required approval.

It is only once these documents have received government approval, which is expected to take 60 days from the date of submission, that they will come into effect. Registrants however will be given ample time to become familiar with these new and important practice standards and both 'live' and 'online' education sessions will be available late summer or early fall.