

MARCH 2017

UPDATE



APRIL

New National Pain Centre guidelines expected to be released:
“Use of Opioids in Chronic Non-Cancer Pain”

NL’s Pharmacy Network expected to be 100% connected

MAY 5

17th Annual CPSNL Ethics Lecture:
“Dying with Dignity”

JUNE 17

CPSNL Council quarterly meeting and College AGM.
Location:
Head Office,
Chartered Professional Accountants NL,
St. John’s

HIGHLIGHTS: 2017 Q1 Council Meeting

The first-quarter College Council meeting was held at The Gathering Place (St. John’s) on March 11th. This was the first Council meeting that Deputy Registrar Dr. Oscar Howell and the four recently elected members of Council attended in their official capacities. Highlights of the meeting included:

1. Approval of seven new appointments to the Disciplinary Panel, from which physicians are chosen to serve on Tribunals that investigate serious complaints concerning College members (physicians). See details next page.
2. A presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Bannister on the Canadian “Practice Ready Assessment” program.
3. A presentation by Dr. Carl Sparrow on the Clinical Skills Assessment and Training program (CSAT), operated by Memorial University’s Faculty of Medicine in partnership with the College.
4. Approval of five updated Standards of Practice. See details, below.
5. Review of the 2016 Operational Plan: items accomplished and items still to be considered.
6. Setting the date and location for the College’s 2017 annual general meeting.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: JUNE 17, 2017

ON OUR RADAR

ABUSE & MISUSE OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Two efforts aimed at addressing concerns about the abuse, misuse, and diversion of narcotics and other regulated/controlled substances are making progress early in 2017.

The province’s Pharmacy Network is expected to be 100% connected (all pharmacies online) in April. **Physicians must be prepared to check this database to provide better-informed patient care and avoid duplication of prescriptions.**

Additionally, the Michael G. DeGroote National Pain Centre (based at McMaster University) is expected to release the results of feedback received on its “Draft Recommendations for Use of Opioids in Chronic Non-Cancer Pain,” which were circulated for comment across the country in late January.

FIVE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE UPDATED

At its Q1 meeting in March, Council reviewed and approved the following five College Standards of Practice:

- Accepting New Patients
- Complementary & Alternative Medicine
- Medical Assistance in Dying (v. March 2017)
- Physician Treatment of Self, Family Members or Others Close to Them
- Telemedicine

All of the College’s Standards of Practice and Practice Guidelines are available on the CPSNL website.

IN OUR NEWS

SAFE-PRESCRIBING COURSE NOW MANDATORY

Physicians applying to practise medicine in this province for the first time **are now required** to complete a safe-prescribing course before the College will issue them a licence.

The College envisaged and developed the new program with major assistance from the Faculty of Medicine's Office of Professional Development (at MUN) and financial support from the provincial Department of Health and Community Services. The course will further acquaint new-to-NL physicians with provincial (and national) concerns about opioid, stimulant, and benzodiazepine prescriptions and address how to safely prescribe these medications.

INTERNAL RE-ORGANIZATION COMPLETE

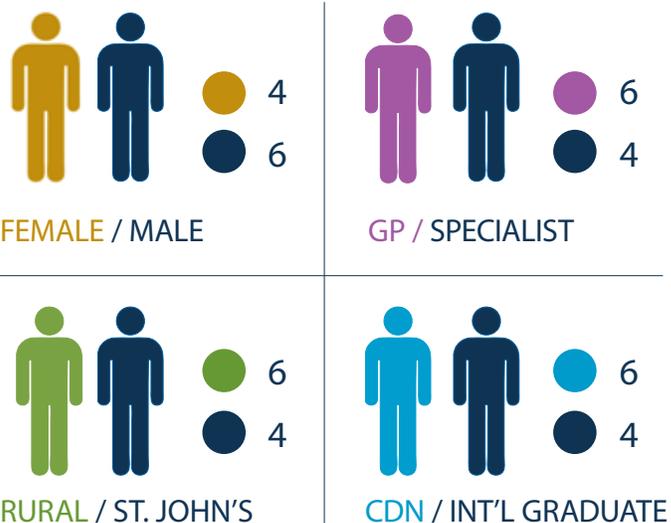
Adjustments in organizational structure aimed at maximizing resources and streamlining operations were completed in early 2017. Deputy Registrar Dr. Oscar Howell will lead a number of efforts, with an emphasis on chairing the Complaints Authorization Committee and working closely with staff Legal Counsel Elyse Bruce. He and Registrar Dr. Linda Inkpen will also provide medical assessment of licence applications, where needed. The current administrative structure should be capable of serving the College and its members efficiently for the foreseeable future.

"The Pharmacy Network provides pharmacists and other health care professionals with important patient medication information, ensuring health professionals have more complete patient information when delivering care."

- Newfoundland & Labrador Pharmacy Board

January 19, 2017

2017 DISCIPLINARY PANEL MAKEUP (PHYSICIAN MEMBERS)



If/when the College's Complaints Authorization Committee determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe a physician member has engaged in conduct deserving of sanction, it can instruct the Registrar to refer the matter to the Disciplinary Panel for a hearing. Panel members are drawn from a pool of 15 people: 10 are physicians and 5 are members of the public appointed by government. Recently, the College updated how physician members of the Panel are chosen and clarified aspects of their service. In early 2017, a call for expressions of interest was issued; 23 responses were received. Selections were based on four criteria aimed at giving the Panel balance and diversity: gender, residence (rural/St. John's), area of practice (GP/specialty), and educational background (Canadian/international). The seven new physician members approved at the March 11 Council meeting are:

Larry Alteen
Gena Bugden
Robert Cook
Marie Fagan O'Dea

Lorena Power
Gautam Pradham
J. Clifford Westby

They will serve for three years and join current physician members Tanis Adey, Etienne van der Linde and Amer Qureshi. The College thanks them as well as all who expressed interest in performing this service.

Mandate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

"The college is authorized to regulate the practice of medicine and the medical profession in the public interest."

As established by the *Medical Act*, 2011