

August 19, 2020

Dear Pharmacist,

Re: Compliance with the Prescription Monitoring Program – NL requirements for dispensers

The Prescription Monitoring Program – NL (PMP-NL) is designed to help improve drug prescribing, lower or prevent risks related to certain drugs, and help identify patients who may be at risk of addiction. Using the information available in the provincial electronic health record, prescribers and dispensers have access to up-to-date and accurate patient medication profiles to help inform and support the needs of their patients.

Information on PMP – NL, including a link to the Act and FAQ document, can be found at www.pmpnl.ca.

The PMP-NL regularly reviews prescriptions and dispenses of monitored drugs. This includes auditing prescriber and dispenser compliance with the legislated requirement for both prescribers and dispensers to review a patient’s medication profile prior to prescribing or dispensing a monitored drug.

Specific to dispensers, section 8.(2) of the **Prescription Monitoring Act** states:

- 8. (2) Before dispensing a monitored drug a dispenser shall:**
- (a) review the patient medication profile in the electronic health record relating to the individual for whom the monitored drug is being dispensed;*

Since this requirement came into effect on June 30, 2018, **pharmacists’ compliance rate for these mandatory profile checks has been low – approximately 15 percent.**

This is a reminder that pharmacists are **required by law** to review a patient's electronic health record **each time** a monitored drug is dispensed. All opioids, including tramadol, are designated as monitored drugs under the Act. Daily dispenses of opioid agonist maintenance treatment (OAMT) are NOT exempt from this requirement.

PMP-NL will continue to review and monitor both prescriber and dispenser compliance rates with provincial prescription monitoring legislation. If you have questions regarding your requirements when dispensing monitored drugs, please email info@pmpnl.ca.

Thank you,



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