



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Practicing Dentists in Saskatchewan
FROM: Dr. B.E. White, Registrar
DATE: June 12, 2006
TOPIC: Triplicate Prescription Program

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The College of Dental Surgeons has been working with government, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the College of Pharmacists and others to fundamentally change the Triplicate Prescription Program.

Effective June 2, 2006 the Minister of Health has approved a new bylaw that replaces the existing prescription bylaw.

The main changes to the existing program are the following:

- 1) The name has been changed to the "Prescription Review Program"
- 2) The list of drugs covered by the program has been expanded. In addition to the drugs previously covered by the triplicate program, the program applies to the following:

AMPHETAMINES – in all dosage forms (previously only dextroamphetamine was within the triplicate program)

ANABOLIC STEROIDS – the program did previously not cover these

BARBITURATES – the program did previously not cover these

BENZODIAZEPINES – in all doses and forms – the program did previously not cover these

CHLORAL HYDRATE- the program did previously not cover this

- 3) There is no need to use special prescription forms for the drugs covered by the program. The College of Physicians and Surgeons will no longer issue triplicate pads when the existing supply has been sent to those requesting them. However, dentists can continue to use triplicate pads for drugs covered by the program as long as dentists have a supply of the prescription pads on hand.

- 4) The prescribing requirements for the present triplicate drugs have not changed. However the requirements apply to the new drugs on the plan as well. Prescriptions for amphetamines, anabolic steroids, barbiturates, benzodiazepines and chloral hydrate will have to meet the new standard. These drugs can no longer be prescribed verbally. The prescriptions must contain the information described in the next paragraph.
- 5) All prescriptions for all drugs covered by the program must include the following information:
 - a) A statement that the prescription is only valid for three days;
 - b) The patient's date of birth;
 - c) The patient's address;
 - d) The total quantity of medication prescribed, both numerically and in written form;
 - e) The patient's health services number; and,
 - f) The prescriber's name and address
- 6) If a dentist intends that there be part fills of medications falling within the Prescription Review Program, the dentist must include the following information in the prescription:
 - a) The total quantity;
 - b) The total amount to be dispensed each time: and
 - c) The time interval between fills

All dentists should become aware of the details of the program in order to ensure that pharmacists will fill the prescriptions that they write. Writing prescriptions that meet the program's requirements will also mean fewer interruptions for dentists. It will minimize the number of inquiries from patients or pharmacists for the information that is required by the law.

We recommend that dentists have pre-printed forms available to ensure compliance with this bylaw. The College of Dental Surgeons, in consultation with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Pharmacists and others, intends to prepare a sample form that dentists may wish to consider having available for drugs covered by this program. It will save dentists a great deal of time in writing prescriptions, and will remind dentists of the information that needs to be included in the prescription.

If more than one dentist will be using the prescription forms, the dentist's name and address could be hand written by the dentist each time. It may be easier for the dentist to have his/her name and address pre-printed on the prescription form