Management of Monitored Drug List Policy

Effective Date February 19, 2008

Approved by the Board of Directors on
Date February 19, 2008

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NOVA SCOTIA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

SECTION I

MANAGEMENT OF MONOTORED DRUG LIST POLICY

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1. Policy Objective

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process by which the list of monitored drugs is reviewed on a scheduled and consistent basis to ensure compliance with the Program's legislation.

2. Policy Statement

The Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program is mandated through legislation to monitor the prescribing of certain drugs. The list of monitored drugs established in the July 2005 Regulations to the Prescription Monitoring Act includes any drugs that are controlled substances under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) and are listed in the schedules to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) or any successor legislation, except for testosterone (when dispensed as a compound for topical application) and drugs listed in Part 1 and 2 of Schedule 1 to the *Benzodiazepine and Other Targeted Substances Regulations* made under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada).

The Board must ensure that the drugs designated under the regulations remain current over time. Operating in an evolving environment, the Board has a responsibility to confirm that the list of monitored drugs continues to comply with the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, as well as the overall objectives established within the Prescription Monitoring Act.

3. Responsibilities

The Board is responsible to monitor the effectiveness of the processes put in place by the Administrator to manage the list of monitored drugs. The Board is also responsible to recommend changes to the Governor-in-Council to further the objects of the Program.

The Administrator is responsible for maintaining a current list of monitored drugs; implementing the guidelines included in this policy; operationalizing all approved changes to the monitored drug list; and, reporting to the Board on compliance with the policy.

4. Legislative Framework

The Prescription Monitoring Act specifies the following:

> *6 The Board shall*
> *(a) recommend drugs for designation by the Governor in Council as monitored drugs to further the objects of the Program;*
>
> *27 (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations*
> *(c) designating drugs that are subject to the Program as monitored drugs;*

The Regulations to the Prescription Monitoring Act state:

> *3 Any drug that is a controlled drug under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) and is listed in the Schedules to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) or any successor legislation is designated as being subject to the Program, except the following:*
>
> *(a) testosterone, when dispensed as a compound for topical application for local effect;*
>
> *(b) drugs listed in Part 1 and 2 of Schedule 1 to the Benzodiazepine and Other Targeted Substances Regulations made under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada).*

5. Principles

The following principles will guide the Board's oversight of this policy:

(a) The process for reviewing and revising the list of monitored drugs is developed by the Administrator and approved by the Board.

(b) The approved process is implemented by the Administrator and monitored by the Board.

(c) The Board recommends changes arising from the process to the Governor-in-Council.

(d) The Administrator implements all approved changes to the monitored drug list.

6. Definitions

In this policy:

(a) "Administrator" means the agency or person designated by the Minister to administer the Program, and for the purposes of this Policy includes the Manager appointed by the Administrator or any other person employed by the Administrator.

(b) "Board" means the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Board established by the Prescription Monitoring Act.

(c) "Medical Consultant" means a physician contracted by the Administrator to provide the Program with operational content expertise

(d) "Monitored Drugs" means controlled substances under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) listed in the schedules to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) or any successor legislation, except for testosterone (when dispensed as a compound for topical application) and drugs listed in Part 1 and 2 of Schedule 1 to the *Benzodiazepine and Other Targeted Substances Regulations* made under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada).

(e) "Program" means the Prescription Monitoring Program established by the Board.

7. Scope

This section is to provide an indication of what and or who particularly the policy applies to within the Prescription Monitoring Program Operations.

(a) the Board;

(b) consultants contracted by the Program;

(c) the Administrator;

8. Accountability

The Administrator and Board Chair have the responsibility for the ongoing monitoring and enforcement of this policy.

9. Challenging Compliance

Any challenge to the Program's compliance with this Policy shall be provided in writing to the Board Chair.

NOVA SCOTIA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM

SECTION II

GUIDELINES

Process for Reviewing the Monitored Drug List

The list of monitored drugs, as specified in the Regulations to the Prescription Monitoring Act, is reviewed annually by a Board appointed ad hoc committee which consists of (at a minimum):

a) a pharmacist;
b) a physician;
c) the Program's Medical Consultant;
d) an outside consultant with addictions and or pain management expertise

Following this review, a report is submitted to the Board outlining opinions regarding the appropriateness of the current list of monitored drugs and recommendations for changes to the list.

The Board reviews this information and determines if further action is warranted.