



COLLEGE OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PHYSICIANS RELATIONS QUARTERLY UPDATE

Fall 2010

Board Update

It has been a tremendous year for the CNPBC and for the profession in BC. The achievement of prescriptive authority for ND's in BC is a great success. We are extremely proud of the enormous effort and hard work devoted to this initiative over the past several years by all involved.

Following the issuing of the Standards, Limits and Conditions for Prescribing, the required course for certification was offered and there are now 187 naturopathic physicians in BC who are certified in prescribing authority. Arrangements were also made with the Ministry of Health and the College of Pharmacists of BC so that all pharmacists in BC were informed of the ND's certified to prescribe and certified ND's are now on the Pharmanet system. We are expecting further word shortly from Ministry of Health officials regarding the protocols required to implement access to patient prescription histories on Pharmanet. These protocols must be approved by the Ministry of Health before ND's can have access to Pharmanet data. It is hoped that software will be made available to all certified ND's to enable online access to Pharmanet patient histories once the matter of protocols is settled. (BCNA is exploring options to facilitate obtaining the software at a good value.)

All of the committees continue to work extremely hard and their role serving the CNPBC board and its registrants becomes more and more demanding. We are very grateful to all of the volunteers who continue to serve on the committees.

The CNPBC also moved its offices at the beginning of the 2010 year, welcomed a new staff member and continued with orientation for three of our most recent public Board members.

It has been a very busy, yet rewarding year for the CNPBC board and staff as we continue to move forward and work toward new goals and initiatives for the 2011 year. - Dr. Lorne G. Swetlikoff, B.Sc., N.D.

Registrar's Update

The fall has been very busy, with the Board Planning Meeting in September, the certification of 187 ND's in prescriptive authority by the College, the arrangements with the Ministry of Health to have the 187 ND's entered onto the Pharmanet system and the launch of prescriptive authority on September 7th. All of this went according to plan and thanks and congratulations go to all Board members, staff, PDR Committee members, BINM staff, Ministry of Health staff, CNPBC registrants and BCNA members whose cooperation made such a successful launch possible. I was very pleased and proud to be part of this historic occasion for the profession.

At the same time, this was a busy period for several committees, including the Inquiry Committee, which has been dealing with a number of cases, including some serious matters and the first case to go to the Health Professions Review Board (HPRB). Simultaneously, CNPBC staff has been revising all procedures related to the complaint and Inquiry process due to HPA revisions and a new policy and procedures manual was produced in draft form during this period. Richard Meyer, our long-serving Board member reaches the end of his term limit on December 31st, 2010, so we were glad that the manual started under his guidance was presented to the Board in draft form at his last Board meeting as a member. I am pleased to report that Richard Meyer will be staying on as Inquiry Chair at the Board's request and we look forward to completing the manual and working together next year.

I also worked closely with Finance Committee Chair Dr. Chris Spooner, ND in developing a budget for 2011. This budget and some financial policies were approved by the Finance Committee and the Board. As you will know by the time you read this report, there was no increase in dues for 2011 as a result of this budget, despite the increased level of activity for the College. This was greatly facilitated by the steady growth in registrations and predictions for 2011.

I had the great pleasure of addressing all of the new candidates at the reception hosted by CNPBC after they took their oral exams. Many schools were represented and the new candidates impressed me with their intelligence and enthusiasm, even after just taking their exams. I am please to report that 34 new registrations were completed between Sept 1st and December 14, 2010.

This has been an exciting quarter and year. I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family best wishes for the holiday season and a Happy and Healthy New Year. – Howard Greenstein, Registrar/CEO

Examination Committee Update

The last administration of the BC Board Examinations was held in August. A total of forty-five candidates took the examinations, which were followed by a welcome reception hosted by the CNPBC and the Examination Committee. The welcome reception provides new graduates with valuable information regarding CNPBC regulatory policies and procedures prior to entering into practise.

The next administration of the BC Board Examinations will be held in February of 2011. The information and application procedure is available on the CNPBC website. – Dr. David Bayley, ND, Chair

Inquiry Committee Update

In addition to the regular meetings to hear and determine complaints the kind support of the staff has facilitated the drafting of a comprehensive manual for the Inquiry Committee process. The manual will provide guidance and precedents for the procedure to be followed once a complaint has been referred to the Committee by the Registrar. This work will help to ensure the Committed continues to carry out its mandate to protect the public while ensuring it follows proper procedure to protect the rights of the Registrants as well as those of the complainant. The over sight of the Health Professions Review Board has served to emphasise the importance of procedure and documentation which dramatically increases the time demands on the staff. I would like to thank each of the staff, Committee members and inspectors for their dedication and hard work. – Richard Meyer, J.D., Chair

Patient Relations Committee Update

The Patient Relations Committee has been busy pursuing new topics with our increased scope of practise. The committee is exploring the ethics surrounding fiduciary responsibilities of a physician in different settings such as the office versus the community. Other topics being discussed are how our profession might communicate to the public our increased scope of practise, taking some responsibility off the doctors for patients who are requesting prescriptions not included in our scope (i.e. cannabis). Lastly, with prescribing rights come promotional materials for doctors. Is there a place for these pens and posters in the office? The committee invites your opinions on this topic. Please contact Dr. Coe, ND at 604-514-8555. – Dr. Cathryn Coe, ND, Chair

Pharmacopoeia and Diagnostic Referral (PDR) Committee Update

The multidisciplinary PDR Committee continued to pursue its mandate of developing Standards, Limits and Conditions (SLC) regarding Prescribing, Compounding and Dispensing for Naturopathic Physicians and developing SLC for diagnostic referrals, including both laboratory testing and diagnostic imaging. This mandate is articulated in the Naturopathic Physicians Regulation and CNPBC bylaws.

Recently, Michael Kelly, M.D. joined the PDR Committee at the recommendation of the Ministry of Health. Dr. Kelly is a specialist in laboratory medicine and his expertise will be helpful in developing the SLC for diagnostic testing. The PDR Committee's initial discussions concerning the SLC for diagnostic testing have been very interesting. Dr. Kelly has provided initial input regarding the kind of standards required by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC of their registrants regarding laboratory testing referrals. The PDR Committee is examining what limits and conditions might be required on diagnostic testing referrals, if any, with public safety as the paramount concern. Once the PDR Committee has completed its deliberations, it will make recommendations to the CNPBC Board. The Board will approve the SLC for diagnostic testing (laboratory and diagnostic imaging). This effort is well underway and should be completed within the next few months. The PDR Committee and the College are well aware of the importance of gaining access to lab and other diagnostic referral for patients of ND's as soon as possible.

At the same time there are certain decisions that must be taken by the College of Physicians and Surgeons and/or the Ministry of Health Services in order to remove any final barriers to ND's having appropriate access to diagnostic testing referrals in BC. Registrants should be aware that it is beyond the scope of the PDR Committee or the College to engage in any type of lobbying in this regard. However, it is within the BCNA's mandate to undertake lobbying for such issues and any suggestions or questions in this regard should be directed to BCNA. - Dr. Lorne G. Swetlikoff, B.Sc., N.D.

Quality Assurance Committee Update

The Self and Peer Review Documents are now posted on the website. Rather than being completed yearly, they are to be completed once every 2-year CE period. Therefore, one Self Review and one Peer Review must be done by the end of December 2012. These do not need to be sent into the office but kept in a binder called your 'Professional Development Portfolio' along with copies of all of your other CE documents.

In accord with the general direction set by the Ministry of Health, Practice Reviews have now started. These are random audits of your practice. If your practice is selected for review, you will be notified in writing and the reviewer will call you to set up an appointment at a mutually convenient time. The practice reviews take approximately two hours to complete. If any deficiencies are revealed, you will be given time to correct them. Beta testing of the Review Process has revealed it not to be onerous, but rather a helpful educational process. The goal is for everyone in our profession to be engaged in a continual process of professional development and quality improvement of services.

The Board has now approved the recommendation from the QAC that certification hours can now be counted towards the 40 hours needed for CE every two years and not in addition to the 40 as previously required. These hours would count for either Category A or B hours depending on which seminar they were taken at.

For those doctors obtaining Prescriptive Authority Certification, CE hours will not be needed until the 2012-2014 CE Period. Beginning in 2012, 10 credit hours from the area of Pharmacotherapy will be needed every 2-year CE period.

This is also a reminder that all naturopathic doctors practicing any type of IV Parenteral therapy are required to have ACLS training. This also applies to all naturopathic doctors certified in Chelation, Oxidative, Prolotherapy and Hyperbaric therapies. Recertification is required 4 years after the date of your initial certification. – Dr. Stefan Kuprowsky, ND, Chair

The CNPBC Board and Staff wish you all a happy and healthy Holiday Season!