

Report on the Meeting with Health Canada, Office of Controlled Substances March 10, 2011

OCF Attendee: Denis Arsenault (Head, Policy Section, Regulatory Policy Division Office of Controlled Substances Health Environments and Consumer Safety Branch)

CSHP Attendees: Myrella Roy; Jason Howorko

- Pharmacist Prescribing of Narcotics and Controlled Substances
 - CSHP requested an update on the status of pharmacists as prescribers of narcotics and controlled drugs. OCS identified that there is no plan to include pharmacists at this time. All focus is on the regulations for podiatrists, midwives and nurse practitioners slated for fall 2011/winter 2012.
 - CSHP requested information on how to have pharmacists considered. The OCS identified that only the provincial Ministers of Health can make a request to have a profession added. As such, our individual request for consideration, although it would notify the OCS of our intent, could not be actionable.
 - It was suggested that CSHP/NAPRA/CPhA could provide a unified front by lobbying the provincial Ministers of Health to put forward the request for review.
 - OCS asked for a description of the role and responsibilities of hospital pharmacists in patient care. CSHP provided a lengthy response.

ACTION: CSHP to follow-up with NAPRA and CPhA on this new development as energies directed solely to OCS to solicit change would not be beneficial