



Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Soci t  canadienne des pharmaciens d'h pitaux

June xx, 2008

Mission

Committed to the advancement of safe, effective medication use and patient care in hospitals and related healthcare settings.

Engag s   l'avancement de l'utilisation s curitaire et efficace des m dicaments, et des soins aux patients dans les  tablissements de sant .

The Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy

Le Journal canadien de la pharmacie hospitali re

Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board

Conseil canadien de r sidence en pharmacie d'h pital

Board of Fellows

Conseil des associ s

Addressed to Stakeholders

Dear [insert name]

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) is embarking on a campaign to increase awareness of the role of medication distribution systems in enhancing patient safety. I am enclosing CSHP's updated *Statement on Unit-Dose & Intravenous Admixture Drug Distribution* and background paper entitled *Medication Safety and Drug Use Management Enhanced by Drug Distribution* on this topic, for your information.

Safe, accurate, well-designed and efficient drug distribution systems are critical to safe patient care. Unit-dose drug distribution systems for oral and injectable medication delivery provide medications in a ready-to-administer single unit-of-use format. Such systems have been shown to contribute significantly to patient safety. CSHP endorses the unit-dose/intravenous admixture system as the drug distribution system of choice in organized healthcare settings in Canada.

According to Accreditation Canada (formerly Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation) standards, the benchmark for best practices in Canadian healthcare delivery:

- The pharmacy dispenses the most ready-to-administer form of the medication,
- The pharmacy dispenses medications using a unit-dose packaging system, and
- The organization compounds sterile medications and IV admixtures in the pharmacy using aseptic technique and appropriate safety materials and equipment.

Data provided in the *Hospital Pharmacy in Canada, 2005/2006 Annual Report* indicates that only 38% of hospitals with more than 100 beds have a unit-dose-based delivery system for at least 90% of their beds (http://www.lillyhospitalsurvey.ca/hpc2/content/rep_2006_toc.asp).

This information is being sent to you, an important stakeholder in health care, to engage your support on issues related to the implementation of safer medication distribution systems. CSHP is committed to promoting practice that enhances patient safety in hospitals.

If you would like more information on this or any other hospital pharmacy matter, please contact your local CSHP representative (contact information provided below) or Dr. Myrella Roy, Executive Director, CSHP, at 613-736-9733 ext 225 or mroy@cshp.ca

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bornstein, BScPhm, ACPR, FCSHP
President, Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
Encl. (2)

CSHP Branch Contacts			
Province	Representative	Title	E-mail Address
British Columbia	Adil Virani	Branch President	adil.virani@fraserhealth.ca
Alberta	Erin Cashin	Branch President	ecashin@dtlr.ab.ca
Saskatchewan	Jennifer Dyck	Branch President	jenniferdyck@sasktel.net
Manitoba	Kyle MacNair	Branch President	macnair@mts.net
Ontario	Marita Tonkin	Branch President	tonkimar@hhsc.ca
Québec	Myrella Roy	CSHP Executive Director	mroy@cshp.ca
New Brunswick	Andrew Brilliant	Branch President	aab576@mail.usask.ca
Nova Scotia	Jennifer Turple	Branch President	jennifer.turple@cdha.nshealth.ca
Newfoundland & Labrador	Leslie Phillips	Branch President	lphillip@mun.ca
Prince Edward Island	Beverly Martin	Branch President	bwmartin@ihis.org