

# SCOPE newsletter

QUALITY PHARMACY CARE IN SASKATCHEWAN

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## Pharmacy Professionals in the Workplace

SCPP is happy to report that as of August 15, there are now 43 licensed pharmacy technicians in the province in both hospital and community practice. With a growing number of pharmacy technicians, questions are often asked about how pharmacy technicians should be incorporated into the workflow within their scope of practice.

### INCORPORATING THE NEW PROFESSIONAL INTO THE DISPENSING WORKFLOW

Example:



#### Pharmacist Role

All new and repeat prescriptions require the pharmacist's involvement. Ideally, the pharmacist will be the first person the patient meets when they present with a prescription. The pharmacist's preliminary role is to ensure that the prescribed medication is right for the patient. To do this they need to assess the patient, review patient history and medication history, ensuring the drug therapy is appropriate (indication, dose, schedule, etc.) and provide medication education and monitor the ongoing therapy.

*The pharmacist continues to be solely responsible and accountable for assessing the appropriateness of drug therapy (both new and repeat) and for providing patient education and consultation.* A prescription cannot be released to the patient or agent on behalf of the patient without a pharmacist having performed these functions. At that opportunity, the pharmacist can ask all pertinent questions, discuss adherence, discuss with the patient any concerns or issues that have arisen since the last visit. These functions are not within the scope of practice of the pharmacy technician.

#### Pharmacy Technician Role

The pharmacy technician's primary role is to ensure that prescriptions are filled correctly (e.g. the right medication gets to the patient) in addition to related administration and to manage inventory. Pharmacy technicians are able to prepare and distribute pharmacist approved prescriptions, compound, prepare sterile and

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SASKATCHEWAN  
COLLEGE OF  
PHARMACY  
PROFESSIONALS

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### JEANNETTE SANDIFORD

Field Officer

### AUDREY SOLIE

Administrative Assistant

### AMANDA STEWART

Complaints Manager

### CHERYL WYATT

Administrative Assistant

non-sterile preparations, check to ensure the correct drug is dispensed, receive verbal prescription orders, copy prescriptions for authorized recipients, transfer prescriptions to, and receive prescriptions from other pharmacies, ensure the integrity and stability of drug product (e.g. expiry date) and are authorized to check and accept responsibility for the work of individuals such as assistants employed in the pharmacy practice setting (e.g. community or hospital pharmacy).

Pharmacy technicians practice in an environment where procedures are in place to ensure the safety and integrity of the dispensing or compounding process (e.g. under the direction of a pharmacist) and a pharmacist is available to ensure the appropriateness of drug therapy and to educate and consult with patients.

Pharmacy technicians' exercise their professional judgment at all times and are able to recognize when the clinical expertise of the pharmacist is required.

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## Pharmacy Professionals' Role FAQs

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### ***1. Can a pharmacy technician independently dispense repeat or refill prescriptions?***

Contrary to feedback we have received, pharmacy technicians are not authorized to independently dispense repeat or refill prescriptions– EVER! Patients need to be informed when they first receive their medication, but as problems may arise during the ongoing medication therapy, a pharmacist must assess every refill.

### ***2. Does a pharmacist still have to check the pharmacy technician's work?***

No, a pharmacy technician is responsible to ensure that the drug that the pharmacist has approved for the patient is what the patient actually receives. Pharmacy technicians carry their own malpractice insurance and they are responsible and accountable for their practice.

### ***3. Does the pharmacy technician work under the pharmacist's initials?***

No, only pharmacists should be using their initials when approving the prescription for filling. Pharmacy technicians will use their own initials when going about their work. On each prescription should appear the initials of the pharmacist who approved the drug AND the initials of the pharmacy technician who approved the release of the prescription.

### ***4. Can a pharmacy technician check a pharmacy assistant's work?***

Yes, once a pharmacist has approved the prescription for filling, a pharmacy assistant may assist with the preparation of the prescription, but the prescription cannot be released to the patient or his agent until a pharmacist or a pharmacy technician has completed the final check for release of the prescription.

### ***5. Can a pharmacy technician have narcotic ordering authority?***

No, pharmacy technicians are not given the authority to order narcotics under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and corresponding Narcotic Control Regulations. Only a pharmacist is authorized to order narcotics and controlled substances and is therefore given a unique code from the licensed dealer (e.g. wholesaler). Because each unique code is given to an individual pharmacist, the pharmacist must keep that code and password private and not share it with anyone else.

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## VISION

Quality Pharmacy Care in  
Saskatchewan

## VALUES

Visionary Leadership  
Professionalism  
“Patient First” Care  
Accountability  
Effective Communications  
Collaboration  
Education

## KEY ACTION AREAS

Increased Public Involvement  
Organizational Structure Review  
Practice Re-design and  
Regulatory Reform  
Citizenship in the Saskatchewan  
College of Pharmacy Professionals  
(SCPP)

## 6. How does a pharmacy benefit from employing a pharmacy technician?

The simplest way to determine how pharmacy practice will benefit from having a pharmacy technician on staff is to review the Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice. Through either of the two pathways to licensure (education and/or national bridging program), the structured practical training and the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) examinations, these health care professionals have demonstrated their ability to meet the entry to practice competencies. All of the components of the registration and licensing requirements are intended to provide reasonable assurance that the registrants meet the entry to practice competencies (presented in no specific order of importance; all competencies are considered important):



- **Ethical, Legal and Professional Responsibilities:** Pharmacy technicians practise within legal requirements, demonstrate professionalism and uphold professional standards of practice, codes of ethics and policies.
- **Patient Care:** Pharmacy technicians participate in meeting the patient’s health and drug-related needs through collaboration with the patient, the pharmacist and other health professionals, to achieve the patient’s health goals.
- **Product Distribution:** Pharmacy technicians implement safe and effective product distribution to ensure the safety and accuracy of released products.
- **Practice Setting:** Pharmacy technicians contribute to the management of the practice setting with the goal of ensuring safe, effective and efficient product distribution.
- **Health Promotion:** Pharmacy technicians support health promotion activities for patients, communities and populations in collaboration with the pharmacist.
- **Knowledge and Research Application:** Pharmacy technicians access, retrieve and apply relevant information to make evidence-informed decisions within their practice with the goal of ensuring safe and effective product distribution.
- **Communication and Education:** Pharmacy technicians communicate effectively with patients, the pharmacy team, other health professionals and the public, providing education when required.
- **Intra and Inter-Professional Collaboration:** Pharmacy technicians work in collaboration with the pharmacy team and other health professionals to support the delivery of comprehensive services, make best use of resources and ensure continuity of care in order to achieve the patient’s health goals.
- **Quality and Safety:** Pharmacy technicians collaborate in developing, implementing, and evaluating policies, procedures and activities that promote quality and safety.

# PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

## Structured Practical Experience Programs (SPSA/SPTA) for Pharmacy Technician Candidates

SCPP has registered 43 Pharmacy Technicians as of August 15, 2016. Of those graduates:

- 34 individuals have completed the Structured Practical Skills Assessment (SPSA) for those with more than 2000 hours of Canadian pharmacy experience in the past three years
- 4 individuals have completed the Structured Practical Training & Assessment Program (SPTA) for recent graduates of a CCAPP-accredited program
- 5 individuals registered via the Mobility Agreement (all from the Alberta College of Pharmacists)

Candidates have had previous experience in a pharmacy setting and now will demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge and skills in a practical setting through completion of various activities that fall within the pharmacy technician's scope of practice. This assessment is to be completed within 2 -12 weeks.

The SPSA consists of six activities:

- Documentation of Drug Distribution Processes
- Quality and Safety
- Technical Check
- Product Release
- Professional Collaboration, including Verbal Prescriptions and Prescription Transfers
- Communication and Education

### SPSA Statistics

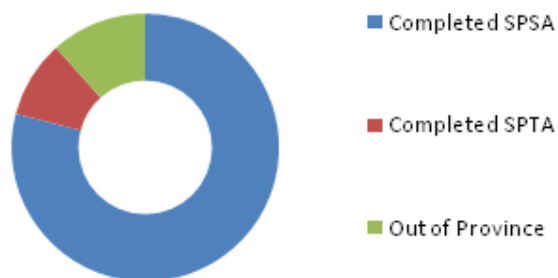
As of August 15, 2016, **91** students have enrolled in the SPSA program

- **24** are currently working on the program
- **67** have completed the program

Of the **67**:

- 34** have registered as licensed pharmacy technicians
- 7** have booked their jurisprudence exam
- 3** have passed the jurisprudence exam, but not yet registered
- 23** are studying for the jurisprudence exam, but have not yet booked a time to sit the exam

### Current Licensed Pharmacy Technicians Method of Entry

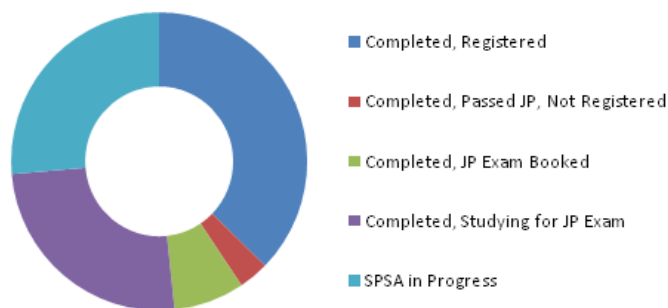


Now that the practical experience program has been in place for several months, it appears that both pathways for completing the Structured Practical Training requirement are running smoothly. There were some initial concerns with how candidates in different practice sites would be able to demonstrate some practical tasks. However, this seems to have been resolved by adapting some exercises to the environment in which the candidate is working, or having pharmacists create mock scenarios if necessary to complete the activity.

### Structured Practical Skills Assessment (SPSA)

The SPSA program (or PHAR1801) is for candidates who have been working in pharmacy for more than 2000 hours in the past three years in Canada (whether or not the candidate is a graduate from a CCAPP-accredited program). The SPSA is designed to assess the applicant's basic competencies in a direct patient-care practice setting as approved by Council.

### Structured Practical Skills Assessment (SPSA)





# PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

## Structured Practical Training and Assessment Program (SPTA)

The SPTA program (or PHAR 1800) is only for CCAPP-accredited program graduates who have less than 2000 hours of pharmacy work experience in the past three years. The SPTA program features activities that demonstrate the candidate's ability to meet the required professional competencies. This is in addition to any practicums completed as a component of the CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician program they have completed.

Immersion in the SPTA program facilitates the candidate's transition from a didactic learner to a competent healthcare professional. During the course of this program, the candidate is expected to develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that are important to the profession. With exposure to each of the NAPRA competencies, the SPTA program offers the candidate multiple opportunities to perform activities based on their scope of practice.

The SPTA consists of 36 activities that address all nine of the competencies as outlined in the document *Professional Competencies for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians at Entry to Practice*.

- Ethical, Legal and Professional Responsibilities
- Patient Care
- Product Distribution
- Practice Setting
- Health Promotion

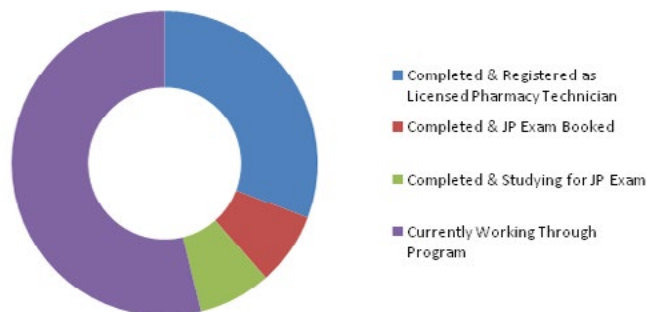
- Knowledge and /Research Application
- Communication and Education
- Intra and Inter-Professional Collaboration
- Quality and Safety

## SPTA Statistics

As of August 15, 2016, 13 students have registered in the SPTA program

- 4 have completed the SPTA and registered as a licensed pharmacy technician
- 1 has completed the SPTA and booked the jurisprudence exam
- 1 has completed the SPTA and is currently studying for the jurisprudence exam
- 7 students are currently working through the SPTA program

### Structured Practical Training & Assessment Program (SPTA)



# PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

## Tips for Successful Course Completion

by Bonnie J. Meier B.S.P., PHAR1800/1801 Course Instructor

### DO...

- ✓ Review all program materials thoroughly as your first step
- ✓ Share all program materials with your preceptor
- ✓ Encourage your preceptor to enter comments in Workbook/Logbook
- ✓ Develop a plan with your preceptor before you dive into your rotation
- ✓ Research prior to discussions with your preceptor
- ✓ Use most current references
- ✓ Answer all questions and perform all activities as requested in SPSA Workbook Exercises/SPTA Logbook Competencies
- ✓ Be clear and concise in your notes/documentation
- ✓ Be cognizant of time lines for course completion and document submission
- ✓ Submit pdf documents as requested on mySaskPolyTech course home pages in Document Submission Guidelines file
- ✓ Expect questions/completion requirements that you may not have addressed in your notes/documentation
- ✓ Expect 24 hours between notification of successful completion before pass grade appears in mySaskPolytech

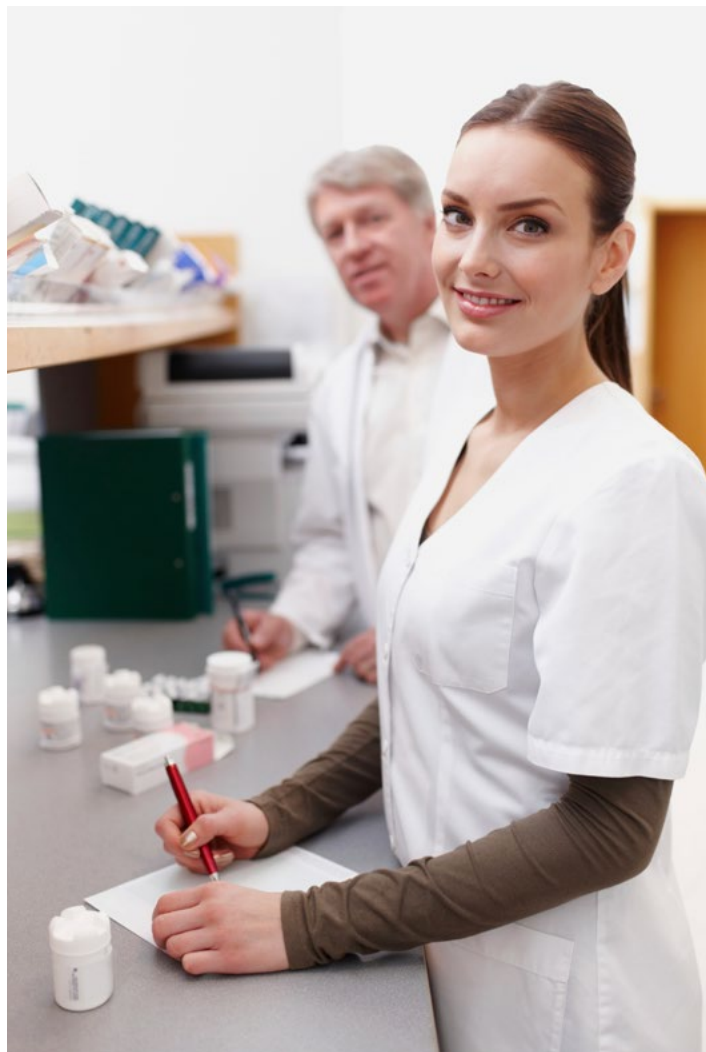
### DO NOT...

- ✗ Submit documents as tifs or jpegs
- ✗ Submit all documents as one file
- ✗ Schedule Jurisprudence examinations with SCPP before you are advised of successful completion of SPSA/SPTA courses

## Structured Practical Training Program Feedback Review

Now that the Structured Practical Training programs have been administered for the past six months, the College has reviewed the documentation and the comments received from candidates and preceptors who have participated in the programs. Some amendments have been approved to the original exercises (demonstration of the required competency was approved).

SPCC thanks all participants who took the time to provide feedback after completing the program. The comments were all greatly appreciated.



## Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) Examination Dates

### Pharmacist Schedule of Exams

Examination Name	Examination Date	Application Deadline Date*
Fall Pharmacist <b>Qualifying Examination</b>	MCQ: November 9 & 10, 2016 OSCE: November 12, 2016	Registration Closed
Winter Pharmacist <b>Evaluating Examination</b>	January 4 & 5, 2017	September 30, 2016
Spring Pharmacist <b>Qualifying Examination</b>	MCQ: May 23 & 24, 2017 OSCE: May 28, 2017	February 24, 2017
Summer Pharmacist <b>Evaluating Examination</b>	July 5 & 6, 2017	March 31, 2017

### Pharmacy Technician Schedule of Exams

Examination Name	Examination Date	Application Deadline Date*
Summer Pharmacy Technician <b>Qualifying Examination</b>	MCQ: September 10, 2016 OSPE: September 11, 2016	Registration Closed
Fall Pharmacy Technician <b>Evaluating Examination</b>	October 15, 2016	Registration Closed
Winter Pharmacy Technician <b>Qualifying Examination</b>	OSPE: April 1, 2017 MCQ: April 2, 2017	December 9, 2016
Spring Pharmacy Technician <b>Evaluating Examination</b>	October 15, 2016	January 13, 2017

\*Applications must be RECEIVED by the PEBC office no later than the application deadline date

## Regulatory Bylaw Amendment – Minor Ailments and Self-care Prescribing Title

The following title change was approved by the Minister of Health on June 30, 2016, and printed in The Saskatchewan Gazette on July 15, 2016:

Under the authority of clauses 14(2)(a.1) and (hh), and in accordance with subsection 15(1) of *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*, the regulatory bylaws of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals are amended as follows:

Delete the title to section 9 of PART K which reads, “*Minor Ailments Prescribing*” and replace the title to read:

Part K “*Minor Ailments and Self-care Prescribing*”  
9(1) ...

The amendment has been updated on SCPP’s regulatory bylaws, which can be accessed from our website under the Legislation tab.

### Why was this amendment proposed?

In SCPP’s original framework, oral contraception and smoking cessation agents were designated as Level II prescribing by pharmacists to initiate therapy without a collaborative practice agreement. The prerequisites for this prescribing were decision support tools such as evidence-based guidelines supported by training to certify the pharmacist with the appropriate competencies. At that time, the SCPP Council did not pass enabling bylaws, preferring to consider these self-care treatments like minor ailments. However, these situations are not minor ailments according to the ordinary meaning of the term but are consistent with the concept of minor ailments as they are in the same self-care category.

Council has now confirmed that pharmacist prescribing of oral contraceptive and smoking cessation agents is consistent with the intent of the Minor Ailments Prescribing bylaws cited herein. Therefore to be consistent, Council agreed that the title of this bylaw needs to be amended to read “*Minor Ailments and Self-care Prescribing*.” Watch for announcements of the availability of supporting guidelines and training before implementation.

## Membership Summary - July 16, 2016

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>PHARMACISTS</b>							
Practising	1310	1317	1373	1418	1479	1521	1579
Community	975	n/a	976	965	969	1030	1064
Hospital	213	n/a	231	245	250	268	275
Out of Province	32	n/a	84	35	21	39	45
Other	80	n/a	38	119	176	129	139
Conditional Practising	10	n/a	44	54	63	55	56
Non-Practising	56	52	45	44	48	45	48
Associate	69	59	55	50	48	47	43
Retired	74	85	91	91	99	101	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>1509</b>	<b>1513</b>	<b>1564</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>1674</b>	<b>1714</b>	<b>1766</b>
Terminations	66	77	79	69	65	71	79
<b>PHARMACY TECHNICIANS</b>							
Practising	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Community	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>33</b>

### Summary

As of July 1, 2016, there were 1,766 pharmacist members on the register, compared to 1,714 members in July 2015. This year's total consists of: 1,579 practising pharmacist members, 48 non-practising pharmacist members, 43 associate pharmacist members and 96 retired pharmacist members.

Effective October 5, 2015, Bill 151 was proclaimed in force, which authorized SPCPP to regulate pharmacy technicians as licensed members. Six individuals became members by the end of 2015 and another 27 were added to the register by July 1, 2016. Currently, all pharmacy technician members are practising members.

### Outside Saskatchewan Candidates

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, there were 46 candidates from outside of Saskatchewan who registered (of the 46, two were University of Saskatchewan graduates). There were also 15 International Pharmacy Graduates (IPGs) who registered as practising members during that time.

### University of Saskatchewan BSP Graduates

There were 87 graduates from the 2016 BSP class at the University of Saskatchewan. From the group of 87 graduates, 69 became registered. Of those 69, 11 registered as practising members and 58 registered initially as conditional practising members.

### Welcome

SCPP wishes to welcome the College's newest members and encourages them to become active in their profession within their communities and provincially by working with the College and other regulatory and advocacy bodies.



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## Proprietary Pharmacy Permit Renewal

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### PRIVACY OFFICER REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMIT RENEWAL

Every pharmacy manager applying for proprietary pharmacy permit renewal is responsible for designating a privacy officer –the designee can either be the pharmacy manager or another licensed pharmacist employed at the pharmacy. A pharmacist may be a privacy officer in only **one pharmacy**.

During the renewal application process, managers have the opportunity to review and/or update the current privacy officer name and training effective dates. To meet the requirements, the assigned privacy officer must have training valid to at least January 31, 2017, for the application to be approved by our College without the privacy officer requiring recertification. Where a designated privacy officer's training **expires PRIOR to December 1, 2016, recertification training must be undertaken and completed before the November 1 renewal deadline.**

Privacy Officer Training is valid for a period of **three years** from the date of completion. For example, training completed on September 15, 2013, would expire on September 15, 2016. In this example, the privacy officer must complete recertification training, and SCPP be advised of the completion prior to November 1, 2016. Online training information is available on the [CPDPP website](#).

#### How to View Current Privacy Officer Information and Expiration Date

Pharmacy managers may view their pharmacy's current privacy officer's name and **training valid dates** by logging into the "**Pharmacy Manager Portal**" (not their pharmacist "Member Portal"). From the SCPP website home page: <http://saskpharm.ca>, click MEMBER LOGIN and enter the **pharmacy manager username and password** (different from member username and password). To retrieve forgotten

usernames or passwords, click on the prompt below the login section or email SCPP. Once logged into the portal, the **Assigned Privacy Officer** name and training dates (from/to) are viewable in the left-hand column under the "Membership Information" column.

If you have questions about SCPP's privacy officer requirements, contact Pat Guillemin at [pat.guillemin@saskpharm.ca](mailto:pat.guillemin@saskpharm.ca) or at 306-584-2292 ext. 321. To register for CPDPP programs or follow up about completed training, [contact CPDPP](#).

### PERMIT RENEWAL 2016-17 INFORMATION

With permit renewals due soon, be aware of the following:

- Pharmacy managers are responsible for completing the online application
- Email notifications will be sent mid-September to pharmacy managers
- Deadline for submission of applications/fees without penalty: November 1, 2016
- Director requirements must be met [*The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act* section 19(1); and SCPP Regulatory Bylaw clause 4(e), Part I]. The majority of directors of the corporation are to be members, one of whom is the pharmacy manager
- Privacy officer requirements need to be met
- Proprietary Pharmacy Permit Fees:
  - Community Pharmacy Permit Fee: **\$1,496.25** (\$1,425.00 + \$71.25 GST)
  - Satellite Pharmacy Permit Fee: **\$753.38** (\$717.50 + \$35.88 GST)
  - Late Payment Penalty Fee: **\$267.75** (\$255.00 + \$12.75 GST)
- Late payment/submission penalty fee is applicable on submissions occurring after November 1, 2016

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## Staff Farewells

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SCPP bids farewell to two of our staff members.

**Andrea Crain** has been with SCPP since 2010, starting as Receptionist then progressing to become the Administrative Assistant to the Registrar. Andrea and her family are relocating to pursue career opportunities.

*As a result, effective immediately, Denise Carr will take over the role of Administrative Assistant to the Registrar. Please contact Denise at [denise.carr@saskpharm.ca](mailto:denise.carr@saskpharm.ca) or at 306-584-3322.*

**Brittani Prete** is a recent BSP graduate of the University of Saskatchewan. She joined the SCPP staff for the summer months to work on specific projects before heading out of province to complete a Pharmacy Hospital Residency with a focus in primary health care.

## Drug Schedule Amendments

The Interim Recommendations made by the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC) on March 16, 2016, subsequent to their meeting of March 8, 2016, were finalized effective April 15, 2016. The final recommendations were to become effective once the affected substances were removed from the Prescription Drug List. The following two substances were removed from the Prescription Drug List **effective August 18, 2016.**

### Ibuprofen

**Drug Schedule III** includes those drugs listed in the National Drug Schedule III maintained by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) except those drugs which may be added or amended by Council from time to time.

Drugs in SCPP Schedule III can only be sold from a pharmacy. They may be sold by a licensed pharmacist or a licensed pharmacy technician to the public without a prescription. These drugs may be located in the area of the pharmacy that is accessible to the public and which provides an opportunity for self-selection of the drug by the public. The pharmacist must be available, accessible and approachable to assist the public with selecting the drug.

In accordance with their respective scopes of practice, the licensed pharmacist or licensed pharmacy technician must be available, accessible and approachable to assist the public with selecting the drug.

This is to confirm:

#### Schedule III:

*Ibuprofen or its salts, when sold in a modified-release oral dosage form that provides 600 mg or less per dosage unit*

This means that products containing **ibuprofen or its salts** when sold in the manufacturer's package intended for non-prescription sale in a modified-release oral dosage form with 600 mg or less per dosage unit is Schedule III and can be sold from the self-selection area of the pharmacy.



### Esomeprazole

**Drug Schedule I** - Prescription Drugs includes those drugs listed in the National Drug Schedule I maintained by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) except those drugs as may be added or amended by Council from time to time.

Drugs in Schedule I may only be sold by a licensed pharmacist or licensed pharmacy technician to the public for human or animal use pursuant to a prescription unless specified otherwise for animal use in Prescription Drug List of the Food and Drug Regulations (Canada).

**Drug Schedule II** – Pharmacy Only Restricted Access Non-Prescription Drugs includes those drugs listed in the National Drug Schedule II maintained by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) except those drugs as may be added or amended by Council from time to time.

Schedule II drugs may be sold by a licensed pharmacist or licensed pharmacy technician to the public without a prescription. These drugs must, at all times, be kept or stored in a secure location in the pharmacy, such as the dispensary, that is not accessible to the public. **The licensed pharmacist must be involved in the sale of these drugs, which includes arriving at the decision to sell the drug.**

This is to confirm:

#### Schedule I:

*Esomeprazole or its salts, **except** when sold for the 14-day treatment for frequent heartburn at a daily dose of 20 mg, in package sizes of no more than 280 mg of esomeprazole*

#### Schedule II:

*Esomeprazole or its salts, when sold for the 14-day treatment for frequent heartburn at a daily dose of 20 mg in package sizes of no more than 280 mg of esomeprazole*

This means that products containing **esomeprazole or its salts** has been retained in Schedule I, which **may only be sold by a pharmacist to the public for human use pursuant to a prescription EXCEPT** when sold for the 14-day treatment for frequent heartburn at a daily dose of 20 mg in package sizes no greater than 280 mg. These products have Schedule II status and therefore **may only be sold from the restricted access area of the pharmacy by a licensed pharmacist or licensed pharmacy technician.**

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## Convocation Luncheon at TCU Place, Saskatoon

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### **The 60th Annual Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals' Convocation Luncheon was held on Thursday, June 2, 2016, following the convocation ceremony at TCU Place, Saskatoon.**

Many of the faculty and staff of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, and Council and staff of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) were in attendance to warmly welcome the new graduates into the profession.

President Bill Gerla welcomed guests and congratulated the graduates on their achievements. On behalf of Council, Bill offered his best wishes to the 2016 graduates as they transition from students to practising pharmacists.

On behalf of the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan, Chair, Julia Bareham, welcomed the new graduates into the profession. Dr. Jennifer Bolt congratulated the new graduates on behalf of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists – Saskatchewan Branch, and Christine Hrudka brought greetings from the Canadian Pharmacists Association.

President-Elect Justin Kosar presented the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals' Gold Medal to the most distinguished graduate, Brittany Clarke of Cold Lake, Alberta. Brittany maintained an average of 91.58% over her four years in the pharmacy program and was the recipient of many scholarships, awards and bursaries, including the Dean's Honour Roll. She received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy with Great Distinction



*Brittney Clark, Justin Kosar and Rachel Martin*

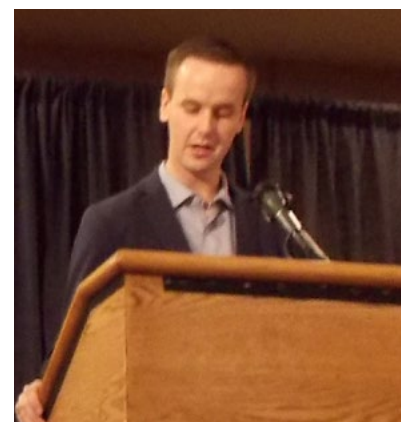
and will be working as a staff pharmacist in Alberta. She will also be working four hours per week as a clinical pharmacist at a facility that provides supportive living.

President-Elect Justin Kosar presented Rachel Martin of Calgary with the Campbell Prize. She maintained an average of 88.95% during her four years in the pharmacy program and received several scholarships and bursaries, and was also repeatedly listed on the Dean's Honour Roll. She received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy with Great Distinction and over the next year, Rachel will be working towards completing her Pharmacy Hospital Residency in Saskatchewan. She will also be working as a casual pharmacist in a community pharmacy.

Dean Kishor Wasan gave his best wishes to the graduates before Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk, Associate Dean Academic presented the awards from the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

Registrar Ray Joubert and members of the SCPP staff invited each graduate to come forward to be acknowledged as colleagues and to present the College's gifts to the new graduates: College pins, a copy of our Code of Ethics and the Oath of Maimonides.

Senior Stick, Darren Bogle, thanked SCPP for hosting the luncheon, as well as the Faculty of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and the families of the graduates for offering their support while the students pursued their education. After providing the background to the Oath of Maimonides, he led the graduates in reciting the oath.



*Darren Bogle*

SCPP looks forward to registering the graduates of the Class of 2016 as members of our College and colleagues, and wishes them all the best as they embark on their career paths. Congratulations to all of the graduates for their achievement!



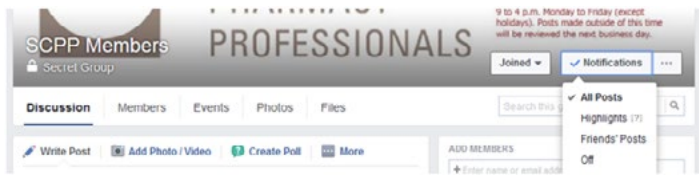
## Changes to Facebook Group Settings



Great news—the SCPP Facebook group membership is now at 275! SCPP members who are part of the group can enjoy breaking news stories, important drug schedule changes, upcoming events, notice of continuing education opportunities and answers to frequently asked questions, among other topics.

Ever since the group reached 250 members, Facebook automatically changed the default setting in the group from “All Posts” to “Highlights.” This means group members will only get notified of select topics. If you would prefer to receive all the SCPP Members’ group posts (currently about twice a week), you will need to adjust your default setting as shown in the screen shot:

1. Go to your SCPP Members page
2. Under “Notifications” in the cover photo on the right side, click the “...” for a list of options.
3. Click “All Posts”
4. You’re done!



Members are encouraged to take an active role in the group and are able to post items they think will benefit the community and to comment on posts. Any SCPP member who is an active Facebook user is encouraged to join the group.

To join the group, email [info@saskpharm.ca](mailto:info@saskpharm.ca) with “Join SCPP Members Group” in the subject line. Please include a **first and last name, licence number and a personal email address** in the body of the email. An invitation to join the group will be sent via Facebook. Participants can leave the group at any time.

## Has Your Contact Information Changed?

Please remember to keep personal information accurate and up to date with the College, especially your current place of employment, email address and mailing address. Up-to-date information helps determine the electoral divisions for College elections and allows SCPP to inform its members of urgent matters.

Updates can be made by logging into the “Member Login” section of the website [www.saskpharm.ca](http://www.saskpharm.ca). This section can be found on the homepage at either the top of the page or on the red button on the left side.

## New Website for SHIRP

by Valerie Moore, SHIRP Librarian



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Program  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
SHIRP.USASK.CA

SHIRP has a new website with a new URL: <http://shirp.usask.ca>. Please update your bookmarks to this new URL. This new site combines faster access to resources, a fresh new look and new features. The home page offers “Quick Links” to RxTx, RxFiles, Natural Medicines and more.

There is also a dedicated page for SCPP members from under the “Resources for...” tab on the left menu. Open the Pharmacists page to access pharmacy related resources like “Drugs in Pregnancy & Lactation” and “Trissel’s Handbook on Injectable Drugs.” Use the tabs to navigate to other related resources, like Point of Care tools (i.e. Cochrane Library), databases (i.e. MEDLINE) and journals (i.e. Pharmacological Reviews) and more.

Earlier problems downloading the RxFiles app have been resolved. On the “Apps for Mobile Devices” page (from the left menu), there are instructions on how to download the app using SHIRP.

SHIRP resources continue to be accessible without a password onsite in any health care facility from the SHIRP website and through PIP. Offsite (outside of PIP), **your password has not changed**. SCPP members will be asked to **login at the time of use** of any of the resources. Or if you prefer, from the menu on the left side, click on “Offsite Access/Get a SHIRP account” to login/access/update your own account, request a password reset or get a new account.

Contact Us details are found near the top right of every page. Click on the “email me” button to ask a question ([shirp@library.usask.ca](mailto:shirp@library.usask.ca)) or give SHIRP a call at (306) 966-1291.







## Employment Opportunity

# Administrative Assistant (Pharmacy Technician) to the Assistant Registrar

### Position Summary

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals is seeking a pharmacy technician to join a progressive staff who value innovation and teamwork.

In this newly created role of **Administrative Assistant (Pharmacy Technician)**, you will provide administrative assistance and support to the Assistant Registrar in the areas of Pharmacy Technician registration and licensing, professional practice, and committee responsibilities related to the Assistant Registrar administrative role.

**Reports to:** Assistant Registrar

### Responsibilities:

- **Administration support to the Professional Practice Committee:** Assist with committee event organization; proof, edit and finalize documents; post all documentation and background information prior to meetings; arrange meetings and collate results; confirm member attendance; make meeting and facility arrangements; prepare minutes and documents as required; standardization of all reports/memos/documents.
- **Registration and membership processing** – working within the member registration team focused on **Pharmacy Technician candidates**. Manage letter templates/form letters. Update database. Respond to email and telephone inquiries regarding registration and renewals. Internship requirements (open files and compile requirements). Intern registration and certificates. Schedule Jurisprudence Exams for candidates. Prepare/send study outline and all documents. Prepare communications documents regarding registration. Receive and compile application forms, fees, letters of standing and proof of malpractice. Open new member files. Prepare Certificates of Good Standing. Assist staff with outstanding tasks with the registration system.
- **Membership renewals:** Work with the registration and membership unit to prepare mailings to current members. Finalize and process applications.

- **Continuing Professional Development:** Work with the CPDPP (Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacy Professionals) unit at the U of S, to update the learning portfolio and develop a program for Pharmacy Technicians.
- **Jurisprudence Exam:** Work with registration and licensing unit staff and our system vendor to establish statistical reporting of exam results. Evaluate exam results. Provide professional perspective of exam defensibility and fairness.

### Education and Training:

**Licensed Pharmacy Technician in Saskatchewan preferred, but candidates eligible for or pursuing licensure will also be considered.**

### Desired attributes:

- An ability to adapt to changing priorities, strong clerical skills (accuracy and attention to detail), strong computer, database and software abilities, discretion and tact in observing privacy and confidentiality policies.
- You will possess good interpersonal and communication skills, function well in a small team, be able to work independently on delegated tasks, and effectively interact with members, registration candidates and the public.
- A legal or administrative support background with relevant admin training or experience is an asset

### Employment Terms and Conditions:

- Mid-September 2016 start date

### Application:

Please direct your enquiries and applications **in confidence** to our Recruitment Representative:

**Kristen Eisenzimmer, CPC**  
Senior Recruitment Consultant

**EMPLOYMENT NETWORK CANADA INC.**

2080 Rae Street, Regina SK, S4T 2E5

[recruit@employmentnetwork.ca](mailto:recruit@employmentnetwork.ca)

P: 306-585-7244

[www.employmentnetwork.ca](http://www.employmentnetwork.ca)