

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: June 19, 2023
Re: Prescriptions Written by Physician Assistants

Physician assistants are a new category of healthcare provider being established in the province. While there is a process underway that will have them regulated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia (CPSNS), they are currently still unregulated.

Nova Scotia Health is exploring how to incorporate physician assistants into healthcare delivery, and this is being piloted in a few Emergency Departments and primary care clinics in the province. This pilot has physician assistants providing care to patients under the supervision of a physician – as an extension of that physician.

CPSNS has confirmed that prescriptions written by a physician assistant are in fact a prescription of the supervising physician.

As such:

- Pharmacy practitioners are to process prescriptions in the name of the supervising physician.
- The prescription must clearly set out the name and contact information of the supervising physician.