

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: September 14, 2021
Re: Position Statement: Meeting Patient Needs; Harm Reduction Policy

As community-based healthcare providers, pharmacy practitioners play a critical role in the healthcare system through drug therapy management and the dispensing and compounding of drugs. It is important that the public can consistently and predictably access these healthcare services at their pharmacy, and the NSCP is concerned about instances where patients are being turned away without assistance, leaving with their drug-related needs unmet.

Position Statement: Professional Responsibilities to Meet Patient Needs

The NSCP Council has established a [*Position Statement: Professional Responsibilities to Meet Patient Needs Related to Compounding, Opioid Agonist Therapy, and Prescribing*](#). Pharmacy practitioners, managers and owners should begin to take the necessary steps to ensure that these professional responsibilities are being met by November 1, 2021.

While many pharmacy professionals in Nova Scotia are already meeting or exceeding their professional responsibilities, the position statement acts to further clarify what is expected and required of pharmacy practitioners, managers, and owners to meet patient needs, particularly those related to compounding, prescribing, and harm reduction.

Harm Reduction Policy

The position statement also reflects the NSCP's newly established [*Harm Reduction Policy*](#). This policy was established in response to the evolving concept of harm reduction and the persisting and worsening opioid crisis in Nova Scotia and across Canada. **The policy is effective November 1, 2021.**

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

- The NSCP will be hosting an interactive webinar on October 20, 2021, that will provide pharmacy practitioners with the opportunity to clarify questions they have regarding the Position Statement and [*Harm Reduction Policy*](#). More information on the webinar and how to register will be communicated soon.
- The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is delivering its Opioid Dependence Treatment Course October 4 – December 15, 2021. The course consists of 6 online modules and 4 one-hour live Nova Scotia-based “Ask the Expert” webinars. Interested pharmacists may register [here](#).