

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE POLICY

### Distribution of Medical Samples by Pharmacists

#### Introduction

A medication sample is defined as a trial package of medication distributed to the pharmacist without cost. It would not include “free or bonus goods” provided as part of a larger purchase.

#### Policy

A pharmacist may dispense sample medication pursuant to a prescription, labelled in compliance with the rules governing labelling and may charge a professional fee but not charge for the cost of the medication. The pharmacist must inform the patient when medication samples are being dispensed.

Where the medication sample contains a prescription drug, a prescription is required for distribution to the patient.

Distribution to patients of sample medication containing Schedule II, III or unscheduled drugs does not require a prescription. The distribution must be done however, in compliance with the conditions for sale set out in the Pharmacy Act and its Regulations of Nova Scotia and the labelling requirements under the Regulations to the Food and Drugs Act. Without further packaging or labelling, there should be no charge for distributing the manufacturer’s packaged sample of non-prescription medication.