

## COUNCIL POLICY

### Pharmacy Readiness to Receive Email Message from NSCP

The Council of the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists agrees that the public of Nova Scotia would be better served if pharmacists in the province were able to receive, while in their workplace, important health information in a timely manner.

Safety advisories from Health Canada on drug warnings and emergency drug recalls are examples of information that pharmacists must be able to receive as quickly as possible in order to provide their patients with optimal care.

With patient safety in mind, the Council has established the following policy:

- By January 1, 2008, licensed pharmacies must be able to receive electronic (email) messages from the NSCP as a requirement for store licensure.
- The email address provided to the NSCP must have permanence, and must not be impacted by changes in pharmacy staff, vacations, illness etc. Therefore, email addresses should be pharmacy based versus pharmacist based.
- Pharmacy managers will regularly and frequently review messages received at the pharmacy email address.
- Pharmacy managers will be responsible for the dissemination of the information received from the NSCP to the staff of the pharmacy in a timely manner, regardless of staffing, illness, vacations, etc.
- Pharmacies whose email access software is housed on the same system as patient records will be responsible for installing the appropriate security systems, including firewalls, to protect patient information.

Once the NSCP is confident that all stores are receiving and accessing NSCP messages consistently and efficiently, the NSCP will begin using electronic messages as its primary means of communicating time sensitive information.

Until that time, the NSCP will continue to monitor pharmacies' success in fully complying with this requirement.