

POSITION STATEMENT

Remote Dispensing

Introduction

Remote dispensing occurs when a pharmacist oversees the dispensing of a prescription to a patient at a distance from the pharmacy, using computer and audio-visual equipment.

Current legislation in Nova Scotia does not permit remote dispensing of medication to the general public by licensed pharmacies. The Pharmacy Act states that no person shall operate a pharmacy unless it is accredited and licensed by the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists. The Act further states that no person shall dispense drugs except in a licensed pharmacy and that every pharmacy must be under the personal supervision of a pharmacist who is present in the pharmacy. Amendments to both the Pharmacy Act of Nova Scotia and the Regulations are therefore required before remote dispensing may occur in Nova Scotia.

Position

The Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists encourages pharmacists to respond to changes in practice environments and take advantage of new practice models and advances in technology to enhance patient care. It must also ensure that the appropriate safeguards and accountabilities are in place so that these new technologies and practice models benefit the public. To this end, the NSCP will collaborate with provincial health legislators to explore amendments to the current legislation to accommodate remote dispensing where appropriate, while ensuring that pharmacists are in control of the dispensing process and patients receive quality care.