

## FAX / MEMO

To: All Affected Pharmacies  
Attn: Pharmacists-in-Charge  
From: Don Rowe, Secretary-Registrar  
Date: September 12, 2001

Original to follow by mail: Yes No  
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Message:

### Requests for Emergency Supplies of Medications

As a result of yesterday's tragic events in the United States airports in Newfoundland and Labrador have been dealing with unexpected numbers of passengers and extended delays in processing.

Pharmacists in the local areas affected may receive requests for provision of emergency supplies of medications for a number of these passengers who are experiencing unpredicted delays, or who may have been separated from their prescribed medications.

**Pharmacists are advised to assist these patients wherever possible and to use professional discretion in ensuring that their pharmacy needs are met.**

You may need advice or information regarding particular drugs that are unfamiliar to you in the Canadian setting. In the current temporary absence of a Drug Information officer at Memorial's School of Pharmacy, your requests for assistance can be directed to the **Regional Drug Information Centre in Halifax, phone (902) 473 4234.**

If you require consultation with physicians regarding such patients, you may take advice directly from the patient's own physician if available, from a local physician in your area who you know may be assisting with these patients, or from the medical officer associated with the Emergency Measures Organization operations in your local area. Phone number for the local EMO centres are:

|           |          |              |          |
|-----------|----------|--------------|----------|
| St. Johns | 729-3700 | Gander       | 256-2665 |
| Goose Bay | 896-6900 | Stephenville | 643-8450 |

Please feel free also to call our office if you need further assistance or advice.



CANADIAN  
PHARMACISTS  
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DES  
PHARMACIENS  
DU CANADA

***News Release***  
*(for immediate release)*

**Pharmacists Urge Canadians Not to Stockpile Medications**

(Ottawa, October 10/01)—In the wake of last month’s terrorist attacks in the United States and growing fears of bioterrorist attacks, the Canadian Pharmacists Association is calling for calm and urging patients not to stockpile their medications.

“We understand why people are worried, but individuals stockpiling their medications and antibiotics ‘just in case’ is not the answer. It could lead to an upset in the supply chain and exhaust the reserved stock of critical medications,” says Dr. Jeff Poston, CPhA’s Executive Director. “Coordinating emergency preparedness is the responsibility of government(s) and we should all support its efforts.

“The best thing to do is to try to keep things in perspective and take special care in maintaining your health and reducing your stress level,” says Poston. “This includes eating well, getting exercise, proper rest, and making sure you are prepared to take your medication properly, particularly if you are treating a condition that requires you not to miss even one dose.

“The most likely effects of terrorism we face are related to delays in usual routines, including those associated with air travel and border crossings,” says Poston. “In these circumstances, we encourage Canadians to make sure they carry some of their medication with them so they will be able to take every dose when it needs to be taken.”

Here are some steps you can take as part of managing your medications:

- Don’t let your supply of medications run out completely before getting a refill
- Don’t leave all of your medications either at home or at work. It is a good idea to carry a few doses with you just in case you are delayed when travelling between the two
- Always carry your medications with you on an airplane
- For more tips visit the CPhA web site at [www.cdnpharm.ca](http://www.cdnpharm.ca)

The CPhA is part of a new coalition of national health organizations, called the Canadian Health Support Network (CHSN), that has banded together to support Canadians who may experience heightened concerns since the terrorist attacks. If patients have any concerns about their medications, they should talk to their pharmacist.

For more information,  
Janet Bécigneul, Media Relations Manager  
Tel.: (613) 523-7877 or (800) 917-9489 ext. 267  
Cell: (613) 296-8460

**NEWFOUNDLAND PHARMACEUTICAL  
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**FAX / MEMO**

**To:** All Pharmacies  
**Attn:** All Pharmacists-in-Charge  
**From:** Don Rowe, Secretary-Registrar  
**Date:** April 1, 2002

**Subject: DISCONTINUATION  
OF  
PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM**

On Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> our Association was given a briefing by the Department of Health and Community Services on the impending release by the Minister of an announcement that the two-year pilot project **Prescription Monitoring Program** would not be renewed and that the program would conclude at the end of the current fiscal year (March 31<sup>st</sup>).

We have subsequently been advised by the Newfoundland Medical Board that the program has been discontinued and that, effective April 1 2002, pharmacies should discontinue submitting further information to the program.

In correspondence to the Association subsequent to the briefing, the Minister indicated that the Department would like to replace the broad-based PMP with more specific policy measures to address inappropriate access to and prescribing of narcotics and benzodiazepines.

The Minister also indicated that in the long term, the development by the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information of an electronic real-time Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Network should permanently address these problems. The government will begin financing the scoping of this system in 2002-2003.

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May 16, 2002

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  
**PLEASE DELIVER TO PHARMACY MANAGER IMMEDIATELY**

Over the past several days, we have had numerous requests for clarification of the scheduling status of *ibuprofen in strengths greater than 200mg per dosage unit*.

**While federal deregulation was effective May 13, 2002 (this past Monday), the change has not yet been approved provincially. Therefore, all strengths of ibuprofen except the 200mg remain on Schedule I – Prescription Sale Only.**

For those of you requiring further clarification on the scheduling process, we would refer you to the memo of May 25, 2001 which accompanied the last scheduling revisions, as well as section 45 of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association Regulations.

The most recent revisions to the Provincial Drug Schedules have been compiled and presented to the Minister of Health and Community Services for his approval. Once this approval has been communicated to us, we will be sending all pharmacies an updated copy of the schedules for their files. Until you receive this update, please continue to follow the Schedules of May 2001.

**Note:** This memo also affects the new Schering antihistamine, **Aerius** which remains Schedule I until the changes are approved.

Sincerely,

Melanie Healey  
Professional Relations Assistant

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May 28, 2002

# MEMO

**To: All Pharmacists-in-charge**

**Re: Clarification of status of desloratidine (Aerius)**

The memo to Pharmacists-in-charge regarding the *Provincial Drug Schedules*, dated May 16, 2002 incorrectly stated:

*“This memo also affects the new Schering antihistamine, Aerius which remains Schedule I until the changes are approved.”*

This statement was based on a national recommendation that placed desloratidine in the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities' Schedule I pending a formal review. This recommendation was never adopted provincially; therefore **there is currently no prescription requirement for desloratidine in this province.** As a result, pharmacies in Newfoundland and Labrador may sell this product on a non-prescription basis.

The most recent recommended revisions to the *Provincial Drug Schedules* have been compiled and presented to the Minister of Health and Community Services for his approval. These revisions contain the recommendation to place desloratidine in Schedule III – Pharmacy Sale Only.

Once these revisions have been approved, we will be sending all pharmacies an updated copy of the schedules for their files. Until you receive this update, please continue to follow the Schedules of May 2001.

Sincerely,

Melanie Healey  
Professional Relations Assistant



## Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association

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# Appointment Of Executive Assistant to the Registrar

As we have announced earlier, Catherine Waterfield will retire from the position of Executive Assistant to the Secretary-Registrar in mid January, after almost 37 years of outstanding service to our Association.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Veronica Harvey** as Executive Assistant upon Catherine's retirement.

Veronica comes to our Association with a wide-ranging administrative background in the non-profit, private industry, and governmental sectors; and is enthusiastic about meeting the challenges posed by the changes that will occur within our association over the coming years.

Veronica will begin working with our association on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, immediately after the New Year holiday.

We welcome Veronica to our staff and trust that her experience, professionalism and enthusiasm will be of tremendous benefit to all our members.

Keith Hogan  
President