



# NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR PHARMACY BOARD

## Policy

### Practice Experience Requirements for Registration as a Pharmacist (International Graduates)

Approved June 7, 2009

#### Introduction

The "Studentship Program" (as referred to in the *Pharmacy Regulations*) for applicants who have graduated from international pharmacy programs consists of a total of 32 weeks **Supervised Internship** served in at least three separate pharmacy locations (at least one community pharmacy) under the supervision of three different preceptors. This Internship is intended as a period during which the pharmacy intern assumes the role of independent practice in this province, under the supervision and mentorship of a preceptor. It is expected that the preceptor, while supervising the intern, will encourage the intern to assume all the roles of a pharmacist in preparation for independent practice.

The Board expects that, after completion of the Internship, the newly registered pharmacist should be able to meet the competencies set out in the NLPB *Standards of Pharmacy Practice - Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists* (initially developed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), and adopted by the Pharmacy Board). These Standards are available on the NLPB website on the Standards, Policies & Guidelines page.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Before continuing with this document, applicants should have read the NLPB Policy, *Requirements for Registration as a Pharmacist (International Graduates)*, found on the Registration and Licensing page of the NLPB website. **This document includes reference to the fact that verification of language proficiency must be provided prior to the commencement of the practice experience period.**

*Note: This document was approved by the Council of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association on November 28, 2004. As a result of amendments to the **Pharmaceutical Association Act, 1994**, which came into effect December 16, 2004, the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association became the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board. References in the regulations to the "Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association" should now be read as "Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board", references to the "Joint Studentship Committee" should now be read as "Joint Committee on Structured Practice Experience", and references to the "Council" or the "Association" should be read as the "Board".*

## Practice Experience Requirements for Registration as a Pharmacist (*International Graduates*):

- 1) Pharmacy interns participating in the International Graduate Internship Program must register with the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board as a Pharmacy Intern using the form, *Registration as a Pharmacy Intern (International Graduates)* found on the Registration and Licensing page of the NLPB website.
- 2) Pharmacy interns are responsible for finding their own sites and preceptors for the internship periods.
- 3) The Internship period consists of a total of 32 weeks. These weeks must be served in at least three different locations under the supervision of three different preceptors. Each Internship period must be a minimum of 4 weeks in duration.
- 4) Contractual relationships and familial relationships are not prohibited during the Internship periods.
- 5) Pharmacy interns must submit the required *Preceptor Acceptance Form* (available on the Registration and Licensing page of the NLPB website) to the Pharmacy Board office for approval **AT LEAST ONE WEEK** prior to commencing their Internship periods.
- 6) The pharmacy intern and preceptor must comply with all legislation, regulations and standards of practice governing the practice of pharmacy during the Internship periods.
- 7) The Internship periods will normally be served in pharmacies with opportunity for direct patient care (either a community or institutional setting). An Internship period may only be served in a non-patient care setting with the approval of the Joint Committee on Structured Practice Experience.
- 8) At least one Internship period must be served in a community pharmacy setting.
- 9) There is no requirement, or prohibition on payment to pharmacy interns during the Internship periods.
- 10) An evaluation of the pharmacy intern, including a certificate of completion, will be required from the preceptor at the end of each Internship period.
- 11) No time off for vacation can be counted as part of the Internship periods.

## Preceptor Criteria

- 1) The preceptor must have been registered with the Board for a minimum of 21 months and have acceptable experience. (Exemptions to this requirement may be granted).
- 2) The preceptor must normally have a minimum of three months "on site" experience, to provide adequate familiarity with systems and patients.
- 3) The preceptor must be willing to accept responsibility for the intern and be the pharmacist most directly involved with the intern (for a least 50% of the intern's hours in the pharmacy). However, other pharmacists or staff members may be designated to supervise the intern to cover areas of particular expertise or specialization.
- 4) The preceptor and all other participating pharmacists at the Internship site must be currently licensed and in good standing and not have restrictions placed on their practice.
- 5) The preceptor should actively participate in continuing professional development and preceptor training programs.
- 6) The preceptor must have only one student or intern under their responsibility during the Internship period.
- 7) The preceptor must be willing to give an honest, open, candid and unbiased evaluation of the intern's performance during the Internship period.