

## Important Notice from the Executive Officer: Proper Submissions to the Narcotics Monitoring System (NMS)

September 24, 2012

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The Narcotics Monitoring System (“NMS”) was implemented on April 16, 2012 to collect and record information respecting all prescription narcotics and other controlled substances (“monitored drugs”) that are dispensed to people in Ontario.

A recent review of ministry data for monitored drugs has revealed four significant areas of concern regarding some of the dispensing information that has been submitted to the NMS. This notice is to provide pharmacists with additional clarification to ensure NMS submissions are submitted correctly.

### **1) Office Use Prescriptions**

Submissions to the NMS for Office Use prescriptions must contain the following information:

- Cardholder Identity: ONOU
- Client ID Number or Code: 0011984283
- Quantity: Total drug quantity
- Days Supply: 999
- DOB: 20010101
- Gender: M or F or U
- Last name: Prescriber’s last name
- First Name: Prescriber’s first name

Please refer to page 13 in the NMS Pharmacy Reference Manual, available at:

[http://health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/resources/narcotics\\_manual.pdf](http://health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/resources/narcotics_manual.pdf).

The NMS **must not** be used for the following purposes:

- Return of monitored drugs to a manufacturer or wholesaler
- Inter-store sale or transfer of monitored drugs between pharmacies
- Destruction of expired or damaged monitored drugs

- Dispensing monitored drugs when the “patient” is identified as a pharmacy, hospital, clinic, office, long term care home, hospice, chemotherapy clinic, veterinary clinic, or any other such entity or facility.

**The “prescriber” section of the NMS submission for an Office Use prescription must include the proper prescriber registration number issued by the College of which he or she is a member (i.e., license number), as well as the 2-character code to identify the licensing College (i.e. 01 for CPSO).**

**The “patient” section of the NMS submission for an Office Use prescription must include 0011984283 in the Client ID Number or Code field, AND the first name and last name of the prescriber.**

**These patient name fields must only contain the prescriber’s first name and last name, and must not include phone numbers, clinic names, addresses, “office use” or any other information.**

Depending on the pharmacy software system used, a pharmacy may record other information related to Office Use prescriptions as part of the record-keeping requirements (i.e., location, facility, etc.), but this information **must not** be submitted to the NMS. Additional information may also be recorded on prescription hard copies that are maintained in the pharmacy as dispensing records.

## **2) Prescriber Identification**

**Every** submission to the NMS **must** include the proper prescriber registration number issued by the College of which he or she is a member (i.e., license number), as well as the 2-character code to identify the licensing College (i.e. 01 for CPSO). Be advised that pharmacists who continue to make NMS submissions using the unknown prescriber mechanism (submitting 99999 for a prescriber registration number and/or 99 for the College identification number) may be found **in breach of their legal obligations under the *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act, 2010* (“NSAA”)**.

## **3) Days Supply**

Pursuant to section 8 of the NSAA, the Executive Officer of the Ontario Public Drug Programs directed that pharmacists include in their NMS submissions the “length of therapy, in number of days, of the monitored drug”. However, the ministry continues to see NMS submissions in which the days supply information has been entered incorrectly. This information is critical, as it is used by the NMS to generate Drug Utilization Review (DUR) response codes and messages which are intended to assist pharmacists with identifying potential drug therapy concerns. The submission of incorrect information results in inaccurate DUR response codes which could potentially have an impact on patient care. Pharmacists are therefore reminded of the importance of ensuring that accurate data is correctly submitted to the NMS.

## **4) PIN for Generic Monitored Drug Compound**

The PIN 09857417 (Generic Monitored Drug Compound) must only be used for the submission of dispensing information for extemporaneous preparations containing a monitored drug that are not otherwise captured by another DIN or PIN in the Monitored Drugs List (“MDL”). For example, dispensing information for an extemporaneous preparation that is manufactured from a raw chemical ingredient that is a controlled substance as defined in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) would be submitted using this PIN. **This PIN must not be used for the submission of methadone**

**dispensing information.** The MDL includes three PINs that are specifically designated for compounded methadone. Depending on the indication for use, one of these PINs must be used when submitting methadone dispensing information to the NMS.

- **09850619:** compounded methadone oral liquid for methadone maintenance therapy
- **09852891:** compounded methadone oral liquid for pain (requires approval under the Exceptional Access Program)
- **09851771:** compounded methadone capsule for pain (requires approval under the Exceptional Access Program)

**Failure to comply with NMS submission requirements may result in enforcement action under the NSAA.**

To learn about Ontario's Narcotics Strategy, NSAA requirements, or to obtain the Monitored Drugs List, please visit:

[http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/ons/ons\\_faq.aspx](http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/ons/ons_faq.aspx)

Or call: ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161, TTY 1-800-387-5559

In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282

Hours of operation: 8:30am - 5:00pm

For technical issues relating to the submission of data to the NMS, please contact your pharmacy software vendor or contact the ODB Help desk at 1-800-668-6641.