

Ontario's Narcotics Strategy and The Narcotics Safety & Awareness Act

WHAT is the Narcotic Safety & Awareness Act?

- Is a part of Ontario legislation called the Ontario Narcotics Strategy, effective November 1, 2011
- Sets out requirements on the collection, use, disclosure and record keeping of information on monitored drugs including narcotics and controlled drugs
- Enables the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to track prescribing and dispensing of prescription narcotics and other controlled substances
 - Information will be collected and stored in a provincial Narcotics Monitoring System database

WHY do we need the Ontario Narcotics Strategy?

- The goal: To improve the quality and value of health care practices across the system
- The purpose: To ensure safer and more secure prescribing and dispensing of narcotics and other controlled substances by:
 - Monitoring the prescribing and dispensing of narcotics and controlled substances through a provincial narcotics monitoring system
 - Educating the health-care sector on appropriate prescribing and dispensing practices
 - Raising public awareness of the safe use of these drugs
 - Increased misuse and abuse of prescription narcotics and other controlled substances has led to a serious public health and safety issue in Canada; Ontario has the highest per-capita narcotic use
 - Since 2000, the Coroner's Office has reported a five-fold increase in oxycodone-related deaths
 - Prescription narcotics have become a highly lucrative street commodity, leading to diversion and trafficking, as well as increased robberies and thefts in pharmacies

HOW will the NSAA affect prescribers, pharmacists and patients?

- Prescribers will have to include their regulatory licence number as well as document on the prescription the identification number of the patient and type of identification
- Pharmacists will ensure all the new and former requirements of a monitored drug prescription are met.
- Information relating to patient and/or agent must be documented and kept in pharmacy file
- Patients will be required to show an acceptable form of ID to their prescriber if getting a prescription for a monitored drug
- Patients and/or agents may have to show ID when picking up prescriptions or receiving delivery

HOW to obtain more information

Additional information and frequently asked questions are available on the Ministry's website:

www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/ons/ons_faq.aspx

For more information, please ask our pharmacists.

PATIENTS

Acceptable/approved forms of patient identification:

- Ontario Health Card or other health card issued by a province or territory in Canada
- Valid Driver's Licence or Temporary Driver's Licence (issued by Ontario or other jurisdiction)
- Ontario Photo Card
- Birth Certificate from a Canadian province or territory
- Government-issued Employee Identification Card
- Ontario Outdoors Card
- BYID (age of majority card)
- Certificate of Indian Status
- Valid passport - Canadian or other country
- Certificate of Canadian citizenship
- Canadian Immigration Identification Card
- Permanent Resident Card
- Old Age Security (OAS) Identification Card
- Canadian Armed Forces Identification Card
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police/Provincial/Municipal Police Identification
- Firearms Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL)

PRESCRIBERS

Requirements information to include on prescriptions for monitored drugs:

- ID number of the patient and type of identification used
- Prescribers licence/registration number issued to the prescriber by the College of which he or she is a member
- Name of the person for whom the monitored drug is prescribed
- Name, strength (where applicable) and quantity of the monitored drug
- Directions for use of the monitored drug
- Name and address of the prescriber
- Date monitored drug is prescribed

PHARMACISTS

Requirements regarding information to keep on file when dispensing a monitored drug:

- Prescriber's licence/registration number issued to the prescriber by the college of which he or she is a member
- Identification number of the patient and the type of identification
- Name of the person for whom the monitored drug is prescribed
- Name, strength (where applicable) and quantity of the monitored drug
- Directions for use of the monitored drug
- Name and address of the prescriber
- Date the monitored drug is dispensed
- Address, date of birth and gender of the person for whom the monitored drug is prescribed
- Drug identification number
- Quantity of the monitored drug dispensed
- Length of therapy, in number of days, of the monitored drug
- Prescription number