

## Supervision of Pharmacy Interns

### DEFINITIONS

**Direct Supervision** – supervision provided by a fully licensed pharmacist or pharmacy technician, who is physically present on the premises where the authorized activity is carried out by the supervised member.

**Pharmacy Interns** – includes pharmacist and pharmacy technician interns as defined in Part B of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) regulatory bylaws. This includes students in a university or technical training program for pharmacy professionals at an institution recognized by Council, or recent graduates who have not yet completed the [entry-to-practice requirements](#) for licensure, including the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) exam.

**Supervising Member** – is a fully licensed pharmacist or pharmacy technician who has agreed to supervise the authorized actions of an individual.

#### **Experiential Learning (formerly Structured Practice Experiences Program) Students**

While this policy is developed for graduate pharmacy interns and temporary licensed members who are granted licensure under the SCPP's emergency licensure bylaws, the same general principles apply and are intended to supplement expectations defined in the PharmD Experiential Learning Handbook provided by the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

For the purposes of the Experiential Learning, the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition's handbook will supersede this document if conflicting information arises.

### INTRODUCTION

As of April 2020, the SCPP's regulatory bylaws were changed to authorize pharmacist and pharmacy technician graduates, to extend their internship until such time that they have successfully completed their entry-to-practice requirements for licensure. This ensures that they may practise to their full scope under the supervision of a licensed Saskatchewan pharmacy professional, within the standards of practice for pharmacy professionals, and that public safety is maintained. During the extended internship, the supervising pharmacy professional assumes responsibility for the licensee. Below are the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the College with respect to this supervisory function.

### POLICY

#### **1. Responsible Supervisor**

1.1. The responsibility of providing supervision is by default the pharmacy manager.

- 1.2. The pharmacy manager may delegate the responsibility of providing supervision to one or more supervising members if those individuals agree.
- 1.3. The supervising member must be competent in the activity being supervised.
- 1.4. The supervising member must ensure the standards of practice are met at all times by the supervised individual.

## **STANDARDS OF PRACTICE**

### **2. Responsibilities of the Supervisor**

- 2.1. Pharmacist interns must be directly supervised by a licensed pharmacist at all times.
- 2.2. Pharmacy technician interns must be directly supervised by a licensed pharmacist or licensed pharmacy technician at all times.
- 2.3. The supervising member is responsible for the actions performed by the pharmacy intern.
- 2.4. The supervising member, providing direct supervision, must be able to:
  - 2.4.1. observe and check each action performed by the pharmacy intern;
  - 2.4.2. perform the activity being supervised; and
  - 2.4.3. promptly intervene or stop the actions of the pharmacy intern when necessary.
- 2.5. The pharmacy intern may practise to the full scope of their education and competence, as determined by the supervising member.

#### **Clinical Decisions**

The supervising pharmacist is responsible and accountable for all actions performed by the pharmacist intern, therefore clinical decisions by the pharmacist intern should be made in consultation with the supervising pharmacist, or unless specified otherwise by the supervising pharmacist.

### **3. Supervision of Pharmacy Interns**

- 3.1. Prior to the pharmacy intern starting their role, a primary designated supervising member must:
  - 3.1.1. review the pharmacy intern's level of education and experience;
  - 3.1.2. evaluate the pharmacy intern's competence in relevant areas of practice;
  - 3.1.3. discuss and agree on the types of activities that can be performed independently;
  - 3.1.4. determine the extent of communication and collaboration expected between the supervising member(s) and pharmacy intern when engaging in various activities.

3.2. The supervising member(s) providing the direct supervision may adjust the degree of direct supervision based on each intern's:

3.2.1. demonstration of competence; and

3.2.2. level of education and experience.

### **Practicing under Supervision**

A pharmacy intern is not a licensed pharmacist or pharmacy technician; therefore, a pharmacy intern cannot perform the final signoff of prescriptions, nor can they work alone. It is only under the direct supervision of a supervising member that the pharmacy intern can perform authorized practices, as defined in [section 8 of Part B](#) of the SCPP Regulatory Bylaws.

The pharmacy intern must be properly identified by a visible name badge indicating their name and title.

### **RELATED RESOURCES**

4. **Temporary Licenced Members** – (See [SCPP Emergency Registration and Licensure - Supplemental Policy](#))

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- [Alberta College of Pharmacy](#)
- [College of Pharmacists of Manitoba](#)
- [Ontario College of Pharmacists](#)