

**ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED NURSES
OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Nurse Practitioner Medication Prescription Guidelines

Purpose

To guide the Registrar in the process of issuing a written confirmation that a Nurse Practitioner has the necessary training and education to competently prescribe drugs or classes of drugs, as contemplated by Regulation 7(2) of the *Registered Nurses Act* Nurse Practitioner Regulations.

Background

1. The Nurse Practitioner Diagnostic and Therapeutics Committee is mandated to formulate, maintain and revise the Nurse Practitioner Medication Prescription Guidelines (*Registered Nurses Act* Nurse Practitioner Regulations (s.8 (6)).
2. The *Registered Nurses Act* and Nurse Practitioner Regulations do not expressly require the Committee to specify or list the drugs which may or may not be prescribed by an authorized nurse practitioner in this province.
3. In creating this Guideline, the Diagnostic and Therapeutics Committee has considered the following factors:
 - (a) in order for nurse practitioners to meet the endorsement and confirmation requirements for professional practice in this province, they must meet all legislative, regulatory, educational and competency requirements satisfactory to the review and decision-making process of the Registrar of the Association of Registered Nurses of Prince Edward Island; and
 - (b) nurse practitioner educational and training programs include pharmacotherapy as a means of therapeutic management which is required as an NP core competency. The Committee is satisfied that the NP education programs in Canada are sufficiently comprehensive and thorough that an NP of average competence should be able to prescribe all drugs except those controlled drugs and substances listed in Schedules attached to the *Controlled Drug and Substances Act*, S.C. 1996, C.19.

Guidelines

1. In exercising the authority to determine whether a Nurses Practitioner applicant has the necessary training and education to competently prescribe certain drugs or classes of drugs under regulation 7(4) of the *Registered Nurses Act Nurse Practitioner Regulations*, the Registrar may provide written confirmation referred to in subsection 7(2) of the Regulations to prescribe any and all drugs and drug classes for which, in the Registrar's view, that applicant has the required education and training to competently prescribe the drugs or classes of drugs. The exception to this written confirmation is that the Registrar may not include any of the controlled drugs and substances listed in Schedules I, II, III, IV and V of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, S.C. 1996, c. 19.
2. It is the intention of this Committee to review the Guideline periodically to ensure that new drugs and changes to the *Controlled Drug and Substances Act* are taken into account, as circumstances require.

Approved by – ARNPEI Diagnostic and Therapeutics Committee

Approval Date – December 2012