

MINUTES
Teleconference Meeting
Council of the Alberta College of Pharmacists
July 17, 2006

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m.

2. Roll Call

The registrar called the roll call and declared that a quorum of Council was present. ACP legal counsel joined the teleconference to answer questions regarding the development and drafting of the regulations to the *Pharmacy and Drug Act* (Agenda #4).

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

4. Regulations to the PDA

- Section 2(c) – the definition of “specialized pharmacy service”

Recommendation:

Amend section 2(c)(ii) from “specialized or advanced skills or knowledge” to:
“a pharmacist designated by the council as a specialist under the Health Professions Act”.

Thus, the authority to use the term “specialized pharmacy service” can only be granted by the college.

- Section 20(1) – reporting changes to the registrar: “A licensee must notify the registrar in writing at least 14 days in advance, where any of the following is expected to occur:

Recommendation:

Add 20(1)(d): *“the proprietor of the licensed pharmacy or a major shareholder of the proprietor will change”*

MOTION: That council accepts in principle the amendments to Draft 8 of the regulations to the *Pharmacy and Drug Act* by amending section 2(c)(ii) to:

“a pharmacist designated by the council as a specialist under the Health Professions Act” and adding section 20(1)d: *“the proprietor of the licensed pharmacy or a major shareholder of the proprietor will change”*; and that, subject to these amendments appearing in Draft 9 of the regulations, the registrar may sign a certificate approving the regulations.

CARRIED

5. Professional Liability Requirements of Pharmacists on the Clinical Register

On May 28, 2004 council passed the following motion:

“That pharmacists registered on the clinical register be required to personally hold a “claims made” policy that provides at least \$2 million of malpractice insurance coverage and that this be a prerequisite for licensure and annual fee renewal with the college.”

On June 2, 2006, council then passed the following motion:

“That ACP provides an option to members to purchase \$2 million of claims made personal professional liability insurance coverage through the college.”

Rationale:

- Council supported the “claims made” coverage because the insurance broker that was invited to make a presentation to council advised that it was very unlikely that “occurrence” coverage would be available to an individual for a reasonable price.
- Personal professional malpractice insurance coverage is a matter of public interest.

ACP subsequently learned that Alberta First Insurance offers occurrence based professional malpractice insurance to pharmacists in Saskatchewan and British Columbia and has recently sold several policies to Alberta pharmacists at a reasonable price.

MOTION: To amend the motion: "That pharmacists registered on the clinical register be required to personally hold a "claims made" policy that provides at least \$2 million of malpractice insurance coverage and that this be a prerequisite for licensure and annual fee renewal with the college" to:

"That pharmacists registered on the clinical register be required to personally hold either a "claims made" or "occurrence" policy that provides at least \$2 million of malpractice insurance coverage and that this be a prerequisite for licensure and annual fee renewal with the college.

CARRIED

ACP is now aware that pharmacists are able to purchase personal professional malpractice insurance that meets the minimum requirements established by council from more than one provider. Since council does not wish to endorse any single market alternative, a communiqué will be circulated to members that will identify some important questions that pharmacists should ask their insurance provider prior to securing liability coverage.

MOTION: That ACP may facilitate an option for members to purchase \$2 million of personal professional liability insurance coverage through the college, depending on the market availability of acceptable options for pharmacists.

CARRIED

6. Adjournment

This teleconference meeting of council was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.