

Minutes
Teleconference Meeting
Council of Alberta College of Pharmacists
Thursday, February 11, 2016

1. Call to Order

President Hackman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Registrar Eberhart called the roll call, identifying the following members of council members in attendance:

- District 1 - Brad Willsey – Past-President
- District 2 - Clayton Braun
- District 3 - Rick Hackman - President
- District 3 - Taciana Pereira - President-Elect
- District 4 – Kelly Olstad
- District 5 – Brad Couldwell – Executive Member At Large
- District 5 – Kamal Dullat
- District A - Kelly Boparai
- District B – Jennifer Teichroeb
- Bob Kruchten, Public Member
- Al Evans, Public Member

Also in attendance:

- Greg Eberhart – Registrar
- Mehnaz Anwar – APSA Representative
- Leslie Ainslie – Executive Assistant
- Shirley Nowicki – Communications Director
- Bill Shores – Legal Counsel, Shores Jardine
- Paula Hale – Legal Counsel, Shores Jardine

Registrar Eberhart declared that a quorum was present.

3. Surveying Members for Physician Assisted Dying (PAD)

The PAD working group sought direction from Council to survey pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in an effort to determine their interest in participating in PAD.

Issues

- Registrants may exercise “conscientious objection” if they have a morale conflict in processing a prescription for physician assisted death. In order to do so, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must meet two responsibilities:
 1. Advise their supervisor in writing of their conscientious objection, in advance of receiving an authorized prescription for PAD; and,
 2. Guide the prescribing physician to another pharmacist or pharmacy technician who is willing to compound and dispense the prescribed drug protocol.

- Registrants wishing to exercise conscientious objection may require assistance in identifying peers willing to compound or dispense drugs for PAD.
- Physicians who wish to prescribe a drug protocol for PAD, could benefit if they are able to identify a pharmacist and pharmacy technician that is willing to compound and dispense the drug protocol to them.

Proposed Action

On behalf of the PAD working group, Registrar Eberhart proposed that ACP survey members to seek their expression of interest to compound and dispense drugs for PAD.

In conducting the survey, he proposed that:

- The survey would include as much contextual information about PAD as possible, to allow respondents the ability to make a reasonably informed decision;
- Responses/nonresponses to the survey would not be binding; that is for example, if an individual responds with interest, they may still choose to exercise conscientious objection at a later date;
- Ensure that all responses would be retained as “CONFIDENTIAL”;
- The database of respondents would be retained as CONFIDENTIAL and PRIVILEGED, and names will only be disclosed on an individual basis, subject to specific criteria.

Policy Direction Requested

Registrar Eberhart sought direction and approval from Council to proceed with the following:

- To survey registrants and create a confidential database to be used by the Registrar during the period of February 6, 2016 – June 6, 2016. Council will review this policy to determine whether it should be amended or extended prior to the date of expiry.
- The purpose of the database will be to:
 - Primarily support pharmacists and pharmacy technicians fulfill their ethical obligations when exercising “conscientious objection”; and,
 - Secondly, to facilitate the connection between a physician having received a court authorization from an individual for PAD, and a pharmacist/pharmacy technician willing to compound/dispense a drug protocol for PAD; and, to provide more specific guidance to pharmacists/pharmacy technicians willing to participate in PAD.
- Restrictions on disclosure of names:
 - The register will maintain a list of pharmacist and pharmacy technicians, including their contact information, who have “expressed interest” in compounding and dispensing drugs to a physician for PAD.
 - Consent will be sought from individuals on the list to disclose their names on an individual basis to other pharmacists or pharmacy technicians wishing to fulfill their responsibilities when exercising “conscientious objection”; AND, to physicians seeking a pharmacist/pharmacy technician to compound/dispense a prescription for a drug protocol to them, having received an authorization from the court to provide PAD.

Council deliberated the proposal and agreed that it would be better to survey pharmacy licensees instead of individual pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The goal of the survey will be to determine a pharmacy's ability, willingness, and readiness to compound or dispense a prescription for a PAD protocol prescribed by an authorized physician. The survey will clearly state that their declaration is not binding. Again, these results will be retained by the Registrar on a CONFIDENTIAL and PRIVILEGED basis. The survey will be disseminated next week, with a request to complete, prior to February 23, 2016.

MOTION: to approve a survey of pharmacy licensees for the purpose of determining the willingness and readiness of pharmacies to compound and dispense a drug protocol to a physician having received a court authorization to prescribe to assist death.

Moved by **Kamal Dullat**/Seconded by **Brad Couldwell**/CARRIED

4. Adjournment

MOTION: to adjourn the teleconference meeting of Council at 9:05 a.m.

Moved by **Brad Willsey**