

NSCP Update

October 26, 2010

Registration Activity: September and October have been busy months registering new Practicing Sponsored members, to date some eight (8) new Practicing Sponsored members as well as an additional five (5) new Practicing members have been registered. Protocols have been put in place for registering Sponsored Physiotherapists such that the new member receives information on what sponsored means, and its implications and must respond to the office that they have received the information. In addition correspondence is sent to the member's Sponsor detailing the sponsor's obligations and the need for a 30 day report. And finally the office follows up on each case if sponsor reports are late.

New Chart of Physiotherapy Facilities Completed: Mid September heralded the completion of the cataloguing of all the physiotherapy facilities (215 of them) in Nova Scotia. With this new facilities chart completed NSCP instructed their software vendor (NICOM) on Monday last to implement the new chart of facilities into the master data base. In addition this chart of facilities becomes part of the online registration process whereby members will select from a drop down list the facility they work at. Once the facility has been selected the software populates the data base with the selected facilities fixed address parameters. The facility name and address parameters can only be altered by the NSCP staff.

Improved Online Registration system for 2011 Registration: We have finished testing the improved online registration system. Some of the changes are: the new system requires that a PT selects the facility in which they work even though it is very likely the facility is shown on their application. The selection of a facility is from a drop down menu consisting of the facilities chart mentioned above. In addition the new system collects new information required by CIHI including: Employment type; Place of Employment; Employment Status; and Area of Practice. In addition the new online system requires the PT to record Practice Hours; Volunteer / Other Hours and CE Hours even if they are zero (0); but better yet after the online registration is submitted to our virtual office and we have reviewed it and we hit the process button then all of these pieces of data are automatically placed in the members electronic file.

CIHI To Receive Annual Data Updates: Round about 2007 the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) began the collection and reporting of a set of annual statistics on a number of health care professionals. Though the Nova Scotia College attempted to provide some information, more often than not we could not provide strategic data because we simply did not collect it from our members (e.g. the new info mentioned above). When the 2011 registration process is completed the members record will be up-to-date so we can then run a new program that allows us to direct all relevant information to CIHI on an annual bases or as often as we like. In fact the changes to the Online Registration system were in concert with the data requirements of CIHI. In addition we will have accurate information on facility locations both public and private which we can use to populate the Services Location tab on the NSCP website.

We have directed three sets of data to CIHI as test material for the data we will submit in early December and on each September first thereafter. Each submission puts of closer to completion and we are hopeful that this third test will be the end.

2011 Online Registration To Finish Earlier in 2010: Members might recall that the 2010 Online Registration period was from mid November through mid December. The Board has agreed that the 2011 Online Registration system will be completed during the month of November ending on November 31, 2010. The Board agreed to this for two specific reasons, first to give the staff time to review online registration submissions re qualifications (e.g. Practice Hours and CE Hours), and secondly to insure that the NS data can be submitted to CIHI before the end of the year as that is CIHI's extended deadline for NS. Normally CIHI collects the data on September 1st of each year. The vast majority of members will be able to use the online system to register and starting on November 1, 2010 instructions will be emailed with User Numbers and Passwords to members. And as an added feature if you have difficulty using the online system you can call in to the office, provided you have a credit card, and your number of 2010 Practice and CE hours and Pat will register you online using the office computer.

Increased registration Fee for 2011: During early to mid October the Finance Committee and the Board have been busy developing the financial statements, meeting with our software vendors and others to capture projected costs so as to complete the 2011 budgeting process. The new budget calls for a \$20.00 fee increase per member from \$380.00 to \$400.00 and a facility fee increase from \$100.00 to \$200.00. Needless to say there was ample discussion around the new budget and fees increases but in the end neither could be avoided. The new budget provides for the elimination of all service fees (e.g. Letter of Good Standing), increased funding for the Peer Review Process including the commencement of the development of an Online Member Portal, that will be password protected and allow a member to develop and house all their Portfolio information on line. And finally the 2011 budget continues to develop a reserve for operations in the event of an unplanned expense.

A reminder: The deadline for the Post Graduate Education Funding competition is this Sunday, October 31, 2010.