

Leading with a New Vision

Annual Report 2018



About Us

Who We Are

NAPRA is an alliance of provincial and territorial pharmacy regulatory bodies and the Canadian Forces Pharmacy Services.

Who Our Members Are

Our members regulate the practice of pharmacy in their respective jurisdictions in Canada and their primary mandate is protecting and serving the public interest.

Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities

Alberta College of Pharmacy
Canadian Armed Forces – Pharmacy Services Division
College of Pharmacists of British Columbia
College of Pharmacists of Manitoba
Community Services – Government of Yukon
New Brunswick College of Pharmacists
Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board
Government of the Northwest Territories
Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Government of Nunavut
Ontario College of Pharmacists
Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec
Prince Edward Island College of Pharmacists
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals

What We Do

We provide a platform for our members to discuss and take a national approach in addressing common issues in the practice of pharmacy in Canada.

Our Board of Directors

Back row: Michelle Wyand (Prince Edward Island College of Pharmacists), Bob Nakagawa (College of Pharmacists of British Columbia), Bev Zwicker (Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists), Sam Lanctin (New Brunswick College of Pharmacists), Greg Eberhart (Alberta College of Pharmacy), Jeana Wendel (Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals), Susan Lessard-Friesen (College of Pharmacists of Manitoba)

Front row: Manon Lambert (Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec), Nancy Lum-Wilson, Vice Chair (Ontario College of Pharmacists), Margot Priddle, Chair (Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board), Adele Fifield (NAPRA Executive Director ([ex officio]), Commander Sylvain Grenier (Canadian Armed Forces – Pharmacy Services Division)

Absent: Donna Mulvey (Government of Nunavut), Stephanie Connolly/Laurel Miller (Community Services – Government of Yukon), Samantha Van Genne (Government of the Northwest Territories)



Leading with a New Vision

Message from the Chair and Executive Director

“Leading with a new vision” is the phrase that best summarizes NAPRA in 2018.

In 2018, NAPRA undertook a strategic planning exercise to set its direction for 2019-2023. NAPRA’s strategic vision builds on the organization’s existing programs and services, introduces new initiatives, and enhances operations to allow NAPRA to be responsive to the evolving needs of its members. Details of NAPRA’s 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, which will guide our immediate and long-term activity, are shared in this report.

In 2018, NAPRA also introduced new vision and mission statements and a newly defined purpose. These core statements are the foundation from which we work and are found in this report as well. As the alliance of pharmacy regulatory authorities, NAPRA’s purpose – short and simple – is to serve our members as they pursue their mandates of serving the public interest in pharmacy regulation in each of their jurisdictions. Each of the goals and initiatives that NAPRA will advance in the coming five years are underpinned by that purpose.

To deliver on its five-year plan, NAPRA’s office and team will expand in the year ahead. We are excited that NAPRA is growing to serve our members in yet many more ways in the years to come.

This year’s annual report also contains an overview of the numerous collaborative engagements and achievements of NAPRA.

The Association stays abreast of, and actively responds to, issues at a national and international level on behalf of its members. This year, NAPRA, in consultation with its members, responded to many federal consultations on topics such as cannabis legalization, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), adverse drug reaction reporting, national substance use strategies, and regulatory modernization. One of NAPRA’s most critical roles for its members is to be the conduit for input that informs national policies and priorities that impact Canadians.

NAPRA’s programs and services remained successful or in some cases expanded in scope in 2018. For example, the Pharmacists’ Gateway Canada (Gateway) registered 3,500 international pharmacy graduates interested in practicing in Canada and responded to 4,000 inquiries.

NAPRA also released its Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-sterile Preparations and the accompanying Guidance Documents. These model standards serve to assist the jurisdictions as they promote safe and consistent compounding practices which will benefit both patients and pharmacy professionals.

NAPRA’s Board and office team are dedicated and passionate in their work for NAPRA, and we take a moment to express our gratitude to each of them. On their behalf, we proudly share the collective successes of the organization in this annual report. We look forward to continuing to lead with NAPRA’s new vision front and centre.



Adele Fifield;
Margot Priddle



A. Fifield *Margot Priddle*

Governance

Good governance is a fundamental component of a healthy and productive organization. In 2017, NAPRA made changes to its Board structure, committees, and policies to strengthen NAPRA in order to better serve its members.

A key change was that the Registrars of the provincial colleges, representatives of the Territories and the Canadian Armed Forces, and up to three external directors, would comprise the Board moving forward. The transition to the new Board structure was initiated in 2018, with the Registrars becoming Board members. The final phase of the transition, adding external directors, will be completed in 2019.

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Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals

As a part of its organizational rejuvenation, NAPRA's Board of Directors also modernized the organization's vision, mission, values and purpose statements.

Mission

National leadership in the pursuit of pharmacy regulatory excellence.

Vision

Best pharmacy regulation, best pharmacy practice, best patient care.

Values



Leadership

We provide strong, innovative and proactive leadership in the regulation of pharmacy practice.



Excellence

We commit to quality in all our activities to support serving the public interest.



Integrity

We act with integrity, honesty and in an ethical manner with each other, our partners and our stakeholders.



Respect

We recognize, consider and value the contributions and differences of others, and treat everyone respectfully. We resolve issues openly and constructively.



Transparency

We communicate our purpose and objectives clearly. We strive for openness in what we do and the decisions we take.



Collaboration

We value collaboration both within NAPRA and with stakeholders. We seek to build productive relationships at all levels.

Purpose

As an alliance of pharmacy regulatory authorities, NAPRA's defined value proposition includes:

1. Leadership on national policy issues
2. Harmonization of standards to reinforce their credibility, dependability, and acceptance
3. A national, central point of contact for communication and engagement with pan-Canadian and international stakeholders
4. A community of practice for pharmacy regulatory authorities across Canada to address common issues and share knowledge and experiences relevant to pharmacy regulation

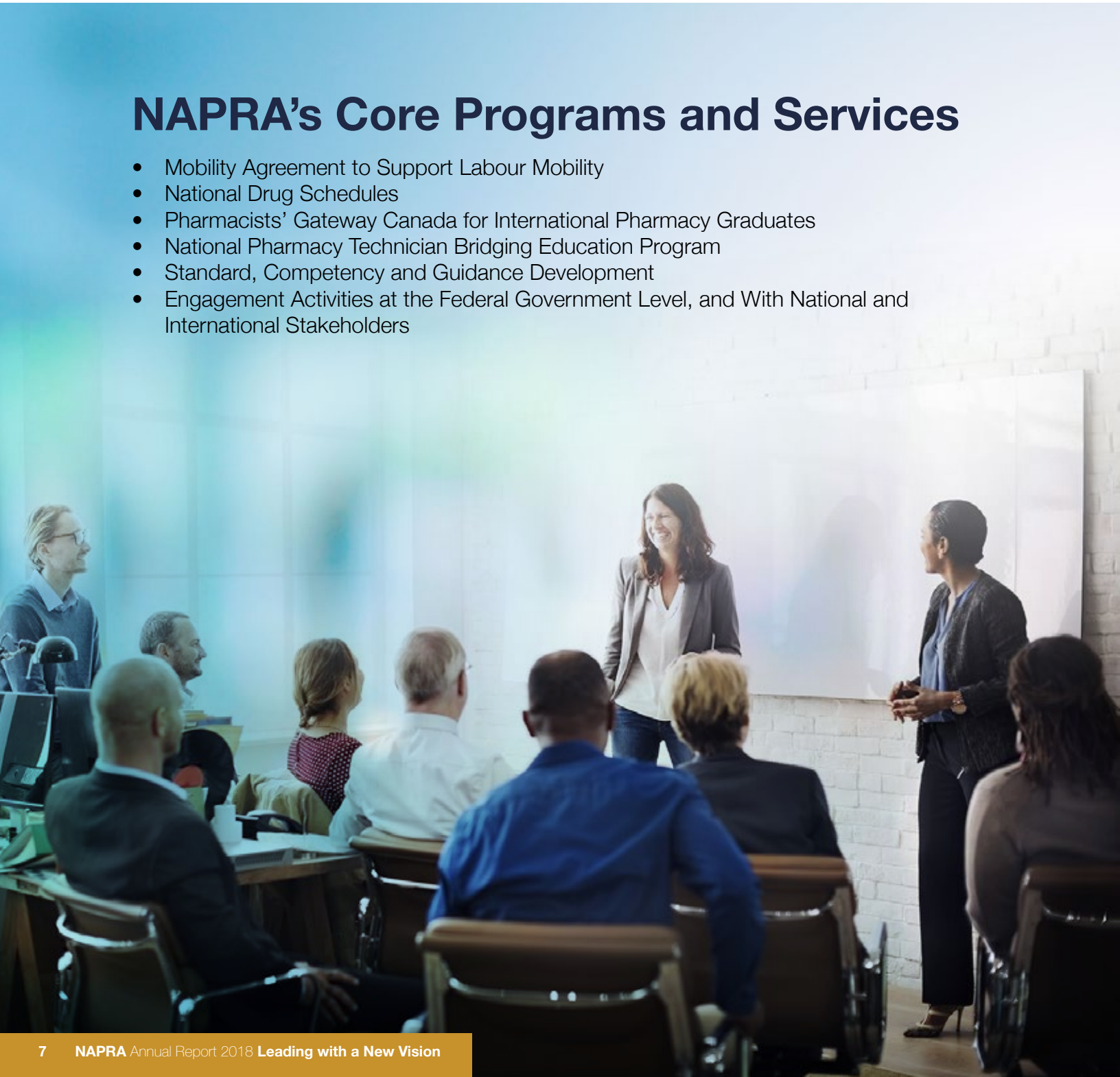
Setting NAPRA's Direction

With NAPRA's new governance model up and running, the focus of NAPRA's Board of Directors moved to determining the organization's direction for the coming years.

The result of the Board's strategic planning exercise in 2018 is NAPRA's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. The plan comprises continuation of NAPRA's core programs and services, as well as advancing five important goals in the next five years.

NAPRA's Core Programs and Services

- Mobility Agreement to Support Labour Mobility
- National Drug Schedules
- Pharmacists' Gateway Canada for International Pharmacy Graduates
- National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program
- Standard, Competency and Guidance Development
- Engagement Activities at the Federal Government Level, and With National and International Stakeholders



Five Specific Strategic Goals

In addition to its core programs and services, NAPRA has committed to five goals.

1 Restore the culture of professionalism within pharmacy practice

Develop and support the integration of a clearly defined set of tenets of professionalism into the practice of pharmacy professionals, regulatory authorities, pharmacy employers and other stakeholders



2 Develop a framework to govern cross-jurisdictional practices within Canada

Establish principles and develop a framework that will allow pharmacy regulatory authorities to govern practices across jurisdictions in the public interest



3 Modernize key NAPRA documents and to create new standards for the reporting and analyzing of and learning from medication-related incidents

Develop and implement a five-year renewal schedule of NAPRA's documents, including the development of standards and a common data set for reporting and learning from medication-related incidents



4 Review the role of NAPRA in the National Drug Schedules program

Conduct consultations with its members and stakeholders, including Health Canada, on the National Drug Schedules in Canada and NAPRA's role in providing this program



5 Establish an impartial assessment framework focused on pharmacy regulatory authority continuous improvement

Explore options for the establishment of an impartial assessment framework, tool and methodology to support the continuous improvement processes of the pharmacy regulatory authorities, in line with best practices in self-governance and regulation

Pharmacists' Gateway Canada

for International Pharmacy Graduates

Most international pharmacy graduates who wish to practice in Canada must begin their licensure process by enrolling in Pharmacists' Gateway Canada (Gateway). The Gateway is a convenient and central online resource that is accessible from anywhere there is Internet access.

The public-facing website guides applicants through each of the steps in the licensure process and helps to identify what requirements can be completed before arriving in Canada.

The Gateway also offers self-assessment tools to help applicants:

- understand the practice of pharmacy and the licensing requirements in Canada;
- determine whether someone is ready to proceed with the application process to practice pharmacy in Canada; and
- identify areas where improvement in pharmacy skills and knowledge may be needed.

PHARMACISTS'
GATEWAY
CANADA
for international pharmacists®



PORTAIL POUR
PHARMACIENS
CANADA
pour pharmaciens formés à l'étranger®

www.pharmacistsgatewaycanada.ca
gatewayinfo@napra.ca
613 569-9800

Gateway registrants say thanks

"Thank you so much for such a detailed and prompt reply. It is so helpful, and I feel my work has been made easy."

"I am stunned, by seeing your immediate response... it's very helpful. Have a nice day."

"I'm very grateful for your understanding, and cooperation all through this process. You have been a wonderful representative of your organization."

2018 Gateway in Numbers



National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program

The role of pharmacy technician became a regulated healthcare professional more than 10 years ago. Since that time anyone wishing to enter the profession is required to complete a full-time pharmacy technician training program.

The National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program was launched by NAPRA to assist individuals who were already working in the role of pharmacy technician at the time the profession became regulated, to upgrade their skills to align with changes in the scope of practice of pharmacy technicians and requirements of the regulated profession, without returning to school to complete a full-time training program.

Completion of the program and becoming a regulated pharmacy technician allows the pharmacy technician to continue to practice as a pharmacy technician and to relocate and work anywhere in Canada without the need to requalify their licensing upon arriving in a new province or territory.

The Program includes four courses:

Pharmacology for Pharmacy Technician Bridging

Product Preparation for Pharmacy Technician Bridging

Management of Drug Distribution Systems for Pharmacy Technician Bridging

Professional Practice for Pharmacy Technician Bridging

The Program is delivered in French and English and both in-class and online options are provided through several educational institutions across Canada. The National Pharmacy Technician Bridging Education Program had over 1,000 enrolments throughout 2018.



National Drug Schedules

NAPRA's role in drug scheduling begins after Health Canada has authorized a health product for sale in Canada and determined whether a medicinal ingredient requires a prescription to be sold. Beyond whether a medicinal ingredient requires a prescription, all other decisions about the conditions of sale for drug products are a provincial/territorial responsibility. NAPRA's members, the pharmacy regulatory authorities throughout Canada, are the bodies with the responsibility to regulate the conditions of sale of drug products.

The National Drug Schedules (NDS) were maintained and the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee completed a review of esomeprazole in 2018.

On behalf of its members, NAPRA administers the National Drug Schedules (NDS) which consist of three schedules or four categories of drugs (see next page), wherein a National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee applies consistent scheduling factors and a standard process to make scheduling recommendations to NAPRA. The NDS model aligns the provincial drug schedules so that the conditions for the sale of drugs are consistent across Canada.



Outline of the NAPRA National Drug Schedules

Schedule I

Schedule I drugs require a prescription for sale and are provided to the public by the pharmacist following the diagnosis and professional intervention of a practitioner. The sale is controlled in a regulated environment as defined by provincial pharmacy legislation.

Schedule II drugs, while less strictly regulated, do require professional intervention from the pharmacist at the point of sale and possibly referral to a practitioner. While a prescription is not required, the drugs are available only from the pharmacist and must be retained within an area of the pharmacy where there is no public access and no opportunity for patient self-selection.

Schedule II

Schedule III

Schedule III drugs may present risks to certain populations in self-selection. Although available without a prescription, these drugs are to be sold from the self-selection area of the pharmacy which is operated under the direct supervision of the pharmacist, subject to any local professional discretionary requirements which may increase the degree of control. Such an environment is accessible to the patient and clearly identified as the “professional services area” of the pharmacy. The pharmacist is available, accessible and approachable to assist the patient in making an appropriate self-medication selection.

Unscheduled drugs can be sold without professional supervision. Adequate information is available for the patient to make a safe and effective choice and labeling is deemed sufficient to ensure the appropriate use of the drug. These drugs are not included in Schedules I, II or III and may be sold from any retail outlet.

Unscheduled

Standards, Competencies, and Guidance

NAPRA establishes model standards, competencies, and guidance documents which can be adopted or adapted for use and implemented by each provincial, territorial, or Canadian Armed Forces pharmacy regulatory body.

Harmonizing competencies and practice standards using common, national documents reinforces their credibility, dependability, and acceptance throughout Canada. This contributes to the delivery of quality care and is critical to help patients receive consistent high-quality care from coast to coast.

In 2018, NAPRA released the *Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-sterile Preparations*, along with a guidance document that provides more detail on how the standards can be achieved. NAPRA's suite of model standards for pharmacy compounding now comprises three model standards, with one pertaining to non-hazardous sterile preparations, one to hazardous sterile preparations, and one to non-sterile preparations. The introduction of these three national-level model standards of practice will help to harmonize compounding practices across the country with the aim to ensure patients receive safe and high-quality products no matter where they access compounding services in Canada, and to provide pharmacy professionals with a tool to support them in preparing high-quality products in a manner that ensures the safety of patients and pharmacy personnel.



NAPRA Commitments to Joint Statement of Action to Address the Opioid Crisis

In response to Canada's growing opioid crisis, associations of health professionals, national organizations, regulators, and decision makers were invited to come together at the Opioid Summit held in November 2016. The objective of the summit was to establish a collective response to the opioid crisis and to identify specific actions required to address the crisis in Canada.

This effort resulted in a collective commitment by summit participants to work within their respective areas of responsibility to improve prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement associated with problematic opioid use through timely, concrete actions that deliver clear results.

As a signatory to the Joint Statement of Action to Address the Opioid Crisis, NAPRA committed to:

1

develop a pharmacist-patient communication tool that will provide guidance to pharmacists on how to have difficult conversations with patients regarding opioid use; and

2

explore the extent to which provinces can gather data on the doses of opioids to contribute to national monitoring and surveillance of opioid use.

**NAPRA advanced these
important projects in 2018.**

Stakeholder Engagement

On behalf of its members, NAPRA provides leadership on national policy issues, and acts as a national and central point of contact with the federal government and with pan-Canadian as well as international stakeholders.

An important part of its role throughout the year is to contribute to pertinent federal government consultations. In 2018, NAPRA provided input to a great range of federal consultations on key health issues related to the practice and regulation of pharmacy, including, but not limited to, cannabis legalization, medical assistance in dying, adverse drug reaction reporting, public release of clinical information, opioid marketing/advertising, pharmacare, substance use strategies and regulatory modernization. NAPRA also engaged on Health Canada's proposed self-care framework and on Treasury Board's Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Roundtable drug scheduling priority.

Coordinating a community of practice for pharmacy regulatory authorities across Canada to address common issues and share knowledge and experiences relevant to pharmacy regulation remains the cornerstone of NAPRA. Inter-jurisdictional discussion among the pharmacy regulatory authorities identifies opportunities for collaboration and provides learnings that contribute to the group's collective mission of pharmacy regulatory excellence from coast to coast.

NAPRA continued to raise awareness of regulatory issues to engage with stakeholders on matters of mutual interest at all levels from provincial/territorial, to pan-Canadian, to international. Some of the activities in which NAPRA engaged included: the *Wicked Problems in Community Pharmacy Summit* held by the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists; input into guidelines by the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists to prevent opioid diversion in hospitals; NAPRA's partnership in the *Pharmacy Verified Websites Program* which serves to identify safe and legitimate online pharmacies and online sources of pharmacy information; the development of a Forum for Pharmacy Professional Regulators through the International Pharmaceutical Federation.

Some of the stakeholders with whom NAPRA engages on behalf of its members include:

Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies

Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada

Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians

Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs

Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators

Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy

Canada Health Infoway

Canadian Network for Agencies of Regulation

Canadian Patient Safety Institute

Canadian Pharmacists Association

Canadian Pharmacy Technician Educators Association

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

Consumer Health Products Canada

Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation

Federal government departments and agencies

Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada

Health Products Stewardship Association

Institute on Safe Medication Practices

International Pharmaceutical Federation

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada

Public / Patients

Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada



National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities[®]
Association nationale des organismes de réglementation de la pharmacie

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