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PURPOSE

This guideline is to ensure Member sites and Telemedicine users are aware that the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP)¹ and The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO)² have developed a Faxing Prescriptions policy to inform prescribers of this practice. Please note that the 'Personal Health Information Protection Act 2004' requires health care custodians to maintain confidentiality of personal health information. Member sites and Telemedicine users should also refer to their organizational policies regarding the faxing any personal health information.

GUIDELINE

The Ontario Telemedicine Network (OTN) recommends that medication prescribers at Member sites comply with the policies of the OCP and CPSO concerning the faxing of prescriptions.

1. Consultants conducting Telemedicine consultations must fax prescriptions directly to pharmacists and not the Telemedicine site, in accordance with the OCP policy¹.
2. Telemedicine sites hosting patients are not the prescriber site and therefore cannot validate a prescription from the pharmacy, all communication related to faxed prescriptions must be between the pharmacist and consultant.
3. Telemedicine sites hosting patients may choose to maintain a record of facsimile numbers for their local community pharmacies to share with consultants as required.

REFERENCES

1 Ontario College of Pharmacists: Policy on Faxed Prescriptions, March 2007, <http://www.ocpinfo.com>

2 College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) policy: Faxing Prescriptions, November 2007, <http://www.cpso.on.ca>