

JANET COOPER

Program Planning for Distance Delivery - Experience with a National Emergency Contraceptive CE Program

Janet Cooper is a pharmacist with 22 years of experience in pharmacy practice, both hospital and community, and in a national pharmacy association.

Janet graduated in 1981 from Dalhousie University's College of Pharmacy, Halifax, Nova Scotia. She then completed a hospital pharmacy residency at Camp Hill Hospital in Halifax. She practiced in hospital pharmacy for 12 years in Halifax (Camp Hill Hospital, 1982-1985; positions: staff pharmacist, assistant director of pharmacy), Mississauga (Credit Valley Hospital, 1985-1992; positions: staff pharmacist, assistant director of pharmacy, director of pharmacy) and Ottawa (Ottawa General Hospital, 1992-1993; position: staff pharmacist), She has also worked part-time in community pharmacy.

Janet joined the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) in 1993. At CPhA, she has held the following positions: Associate Editor, Publications, 1993-1994; Practice Development Pharmacist, 1993-2000; Director of Practice Development, 2000-2001; Senior Director, Professional Affairs, 2001-present.

As the Senior Director of Professional Affairs, she is responsible for CPhA's practice development, research, policy development and pharmacy health informatics initiatives. Current initiatives she is involved with at CPhA include: primary health care and promotion of role of pharmacist in medication management, home care and public health; pharmacy human resources; emergency contraception; health informatics (e.g., claim standards, e-prescribing, development of integrated clinical decision support tools); and current issues (e.g., patient safety, cross border drug trade, taxation, third party drug plans, privacy legislation, medical marijuana).

Learning Objectives

By participating in this workshop, participants should:

1. be aware of the activities of the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) in increasing awareness of and access to emergency contraceptive pills (ECP) that led to the development of an online ECP training program.
2. understand the problem of unintended pregnancy in Canada, the role of ECP, the role of the pharmacist in improving access to and outcomes for women seeking ECP, and the need to ensure pharmacists' competency to provide EC services.
3. be aware of the course design, clinical tips and the tools developed to educate pharmacists about EC and to help them establish this expanded primary care

service at their place of practice.

4. be aware of the process CPhA undertook to develop an online ECP training program (e.g., request for proposals, selection of technical partner, funding and sponsorship, development of content and audio-video components, beta-testing, expert review, CCCEP accreditation, pricing, online testing process, launch and marketing).
5. be aware of ongoing challenges in providing this program and next steps underway to support pharmacists in provision of EC services, including continued formulary coverage and payment for EC services.

Abstract

CPhA developed a distance CE program on emergency contraceptive pills (ECP) as part of a comprehensive national strategy to address the public health issue of unintended pregnancy. An online course was seen as an effective way to provide training for many of Canada's 20,000 community pharmacists.

ECPs are a woman's last chance to avoid unwanted pregnancy; they are safe, effective and must be taken within 72h. It is estimated that 50% of pregnancies are unintended; half of these are terminated (in Canada, about 300 pregnancies end in abortion every day). Making ECPs available from pharmacists will improve timely access and should reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies.

Health Canada is giving priority review to an application to remove the levonorgestrel ECP, Plan B, from federal prescription status. This application was made by the manufacturers in collaboration with CPhA and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC). In November 2001, NDSAC agreed that levonorgestrel would meet the requirements for Schedule II, or pharmacist-only status. It was recognized that pharmacists needed both training and tools to support them in providing ECP services. Thus, CPhA developed a national ECP training program, guidelines for pharmacist provision and practice tools. The course can be accessed at www.pharmacists.ca; the cost is \$20 for CPhA members and \$40 for nonmembers. The presenter will discuss the process undertaken to develop the CE program, including: request for proposals, selection of technical partner, funding, content development, AV components, beta-testing, expert review, CCCEP accreditation, pricing and marketing. An overview of the course design will be provided (i.e., 5 modules, 4 video cases, a post-test, a resource section).

Ongoing challenges in providing this program, as well as next steps underway to support pharmacists in provision of EC services, including formulary coverage and payment for services, will be discussed.

References

Grimes D, Raymond E, Emergency Contraception. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. August 2002; 137(3):180-189

Grimes D, Switching emergency contraception to over-the-counter status. *N Engl J Med* 2002;347:846-9

Dunn S, Guilbert E, Emergency Contraception. Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada Clinical Practice Guideline No. 131, August 2003

Soon J, Levine M, Ensom M, Gardiner J, Edmondson H, Fielding D. The Developing Role of Pharmacists in Patient Access to Emergency Contraception. *Dis Manage Health Outcomes*. 2002;10(10):601-11

Emergency Contraception Questions & Answers. Canadian Pharmacists Association, 2002.

Emergency Contraception Online Training Program for Pharmacists. Canadian Pharmacists Association, 2003. Available at www.pharmacists.ca.