

# Better Access for Islanders to Mental Health and Addictions Services and Supports

November 2013

## INITIATING NARCOTICS SAFETY AND AWARENESS ACT MONITORING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

**Q: What will be monitored and reported?**

A: The newly proclaimed *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act* enables monitoring and action in instances of over-prescribing or problematic dispensing.

Health PEI's Drug Information System staff will produce a monthly "Watch List" (a report of how much and how often controlled substances are prescribed or dispensed in the province) for the minister of Health and Wellness for the purposes of evaluating the quality and appropriateness of the prescribing and dispensing patterns and to identify instances of inappropriate practice.

**Q: How will Government monitor over-prescribing or problematic dispensing?**

A: Under the newly proclaimed *Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act*, the minister will appoint an inspector who will investigate potential problems and identify issues to the minister.

**Q: What are the penalties associated with over-prescribing or problematic dispensing?**

A: Should inappropriate practices be found, options include notifying the regulatory college or body, filing a formal complaint with the regulatory college or body for investigation, and notifying law enforcement for investigation.

This Act will allow the minister to:

- Inspect the records of prescribers and dispensers;
- Report inappropriate prescribing or dispensing practices to the regulatory authorities and/or law enforcement agencies;
- In conjunction with the Drug Information System, this will allow the identification of over-prescribers and inappropriate dispensing.

The penalty for contravention of the Act/regulations:

- For an individual:
  - A fine of not more than \$10,000, six-month imprisonment, or both;
- For a corporation:
  - A fine of not more than \$20,000.