Drug Evaluation Unit
A Structure to Support Evidence Based Policy Decisions and Educational Interventions
Pam McLean-Veysey, Jill Duncan, Harold Boudreau, Kim Kelly
Pharmacy Department, Capital Health, Halifax, NS

Abstract
The Drug Evaluation Unit (DEU) provides support to the Atlantic Common Drug Review formulary decision-making process by providing evidence-based written and oral presentations of a drug’s safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness. The expertise in critical appraisal and knowledge of specialized drug topics are valuable assets that aide in the provision of ongoing support to the Atlantic Provinces for the implementation and administration of policy decisions. On a national level, DEU pharmacists were in consultation with CADTH in the developmental stages of the CDR and currently provide support to the local CEDAC member.

The relationships built between the DEU, policy makers, national bodies, expert opinion leaders and academia have provided a structure to work collaboratively, and share knowledge efficiently in other evidence-based educational interventions designed to influence practice.

The Drug Evaluation Unit collaborates with the Drug Evaluation Alliance of Nova Scotia (DEANS), the Dalhousie CME Academic Detailing Service, the Canadian Academic Detailing Collaboration, continuing pharmacy education and researchers at Dalhousie University. DEU pharmacists are consulting with COMPUS on the current PPI and diabetes initiatives. The structure, expertise and relationships developed by the Drug Evaluation Unit are expected to play a role in facilitating the local implementation of evidence-based practices developed by COMPUS.

Education
Drug Evaluation Rotations
Pharmacy residents
Masters and Pharm D students

Critical Appraisal Workshops

Continuing Medical/Pharmacy Education


Extended Applications of Expertise

- Drug Evaluation Reviews for outside agencies
- COMPUS Expert Review Committee member: PPI
- Research Associate, Dalhousie University
- Drug evaluation support for guideline development
  - Cardiovascular Health NS
  - Osteoporosis

Drug Evaluation Report
Atlantic Common Drug Review

- Drug Name
- Approved Indication
- Purpose of Review
- Provincial Coverage Status
- Mechanism of Action
- Kinetics
- Dose
- Efficacy
- Adverse Effects
- Quality of Evidence
- Advantages/Disadvantages
- Contraindications
- Drug Interactions
- Pharmacoeconomics
- Expected Place in Therapy

Supporting Policy Decisions
Provincial Departments of Health, Atlantic Canada

- Atlantic Common Drug Review: Drug Evaluation Reports
- Support for claims adjudication
- Evidence summaries for Pharmacare Bulletins
- Support for implementation of CDR decisions

DEANS
Support for implementation and evaluation of initiatives to improve drug use in NS.
Initiatives have included:
- Topical Corticosteroid Utilization in Seniors
- Wet Nebulization Conversion
- Chlorpropamide conversion

Member of DEANS committee.

Publications
