It was soon realized that the underdosing incident could be replicated in other provinces if proper safety measures were not put into place. A quick review of the regulatory framework for hospital pharmacists and hospital pharmacies across the country indicated that they differ from one province to another. Furthermore, few provinces have regulations for commercial compounding manufacturing premises. CSHP supports the regulation and inspection of commercial compounding manufacturing premises and of hospital pharmacies to promote and ensure best practices in the preparation and use of medications. Therefore, at our summer meeting, CSHP Council passed a resolution supporting the introduction of regulations for these “drug preparation premises” by the Ontario College of Pharmacists.

Work remains to be done in terms of distinguishing commercial compounding manufacturing from the bulk compounding (sterile or nonsterile) performed in hospitals and health regions and also in terms of ensuring that pharmacies requiring the services of commercial compounding manufacturing premises have access to safe preparations with appropriate labelling at a fair price. Of course, all of these measures are intended to ensure that patients’ medication experiences are as safe as possible. It is hard to believe how much was achieved so quickly in an effort to improve patient safety, and everyone involved can be commended for their selfless efforts throughout the spring and summer.

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