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COMPUS Communiqué

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Welcome to *COMPUS Communiqué*

I am pleased to introduce *COMPUS Communiqué*, an e-bulletin about the Canadian Optimal Medication Prescribing and Utilization Service (COMPUS).

Our consultations with health care providers, professional associations, pharmaceutical manufacturers, patient groups, health ministry representatives and others across Canada have made it clear that there is tremendous support for COMPUS and great interest in following its development. We created *COMPUS Communiqué* to keep you up-to-date on program activities, and ensure that you are aware of upcoming opportunities to provide us with information and advice in specific areas as the program moves forward.

I encourage you to forward this copy of *COMPUS Communiqué* to others interested in supporting effective, evidence-based practices in medication prescribing and use.

Barbara Wells,
Director, COMPUS

About COMPUS

COMPUS is a collaborative, national service funded by Health Canada and delivered by the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA). Canada's Deputy Ministers of Health approved plans for the establishment of COMPUS and priority areas were identified by the Federal / Provincial / Territorial Pharmaceutical Issues Committee.

COMPUS will make recommendations on the most effective ways to use specific drugs, based on an objective, rigorous evaluation of the scientific evidence as well as consultation with physicians, medical specialists, health economists, clinical pharmacists and other experts from across Canada.

As we strive to become the Canadian centre for information and education on the optimal prescribing and use of medications, COMPUS will provide:

- Concise, evidence-based information about the effective use of medicines and issues related to drug prescribing
- Advice, tools and proven strategies to help health care providers and consumers use this information

There are thousands of projects and programs underway in Canada and around the world to improve the use of medications. COMPUS will build on the best of these, to create efficiencies and reduce duplication of effort.

Communiqué or any other CCOHTA products please reply to this message with **UNSUBSCRIBE** as the subject line.

The Canadian Optimal Medication Prescribing and Utilization Service (COMPUS) is a program of the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment. Funded by Health Canada, COMPUS is a nationally coordinated program created to collect evidence-based best practises in drug prescribing and use and facilitate their use by health care providers and consumers.

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COMPUS is working to release recommendations on the use of proton pump inhibitors (“PPIs”) for treating certain gastrointestinal problems by the end of December 2005.

Future topics include:

- Diabetes management
- Anti-hypertensives (drugs to treat high blood pressure)

A Commitment to Information Sharing

Transparency and open communications are important principles on which the work of COMPUS is based. The COMPUS Directorate is committed to sharing information with all interested parties, and to this end, has undertaken a range of public consultation initiatives since the program’s inception.

From September to December 2004, COMPUS held 14 consultation sessions in 10 communities across Canada. Approximately 500 people attended, including representatives from the pharmaceutical industry, health ministries, academia, associations representing physicians, pharmacists and nurses, and patient advocacy groups. A report summarizing the feedback from these sessions is available [here](#).

In June 2005, COMPUS held an open meeting in Ottawa to outline its proposed procedures and obtain preliminary feedback. More than 60 people attended. A report summarizing the feedback from the session is available [here](#). The information presented at the consultation session was later posted on CCOHTA’s Web site, along with an invitation for any interested parties to provide input and suggestions. Responses were received from a wide range of health care professionals and associations, academics and pharmaceutical companies from across Canada.

This past summer, COMPUS issued a request for assistance in identifying medical guidelines and consensus reports that contain recommendations on the prescribing and use of PPIs. This step complemented our comprehensive literature search and helped ensure that no important existing information was overlooked. A range of health care professionals responded, including the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology, the Canadian Medical Association, and pharmaceutical companies. The final list of guidelines and consensus reports is available [here](#).

The MPUP Collection

In March of 2005, COMPUS launched the Medication Prescribing and Use Project (MPUP) Collection. The MPUP Collection is an online catalogue of projects and programs intended to improve drug prescribing and use. Projects are contributed and described by those involved. This online resource of local, regional, provincial and national projects helps foster a community of people working to improve medication prescribing and use in Canada and supports our goal of building on existing initiatives.

For more information about how health care professionals and consumers can become part of a community that aims to bring about more effective use of prescription drugs and improved health outcomes in Canada, visit the [MPUP Collection](#).

Incidentally, we are holding the MPUP Collection Fall Draw to encourage new contributions. Organizations and individuals who contribute to the MPUP Collection by November 20, 2005 are eligible for great prizes. More details on the Fall Draw are available [here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Watch for the following opportunity in October 2005 to provide input to COMPUS:

Detailed COMPUS procedures for developing best practice recommendations will be posted (www.ccohta.ca) for public input before they are finalized.

COMPUS is Hiring!

Interested in joining a dynamic, new team of professionals intent on “making a difference”? You can learn more about career opportunities with COMPUS and CCOHTA’s other programs [here](#).