

Expanded Role of Pharmacists to Support Patients During COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Health Canada announced temporary amendments to the Controlled Drugs and Substances acts that would expand the scope of pharmacists' practice.

Under this amendment, and subject to the laws and regulations of the Province or Territory, pharmacists may be able to do the following for Controlled & Narcotic Prescriptions:

1. **Accept a verbal prescription from a physician**
2. **Transfer prescriptions to other pharmacies**
3. **Extend & renew prescriptions**
4. **Allow pharmacy employees to deliver controlled substances including medications for Opioid Dependence Treatment**

It is important to remember that pharmacists exercise their professional judgment and collaborate with patients and their healthcare providers to make appropriate decisions. The table below provides you with a summary of how each province has implemented the Health Canada amendment.

Province	Link to Guidelines	Summary of Changes*
British Columbia	College of Pharmacists of BC	Adopted all amendments
Alberta	AB College of Pharmacy	Adopted all amendments, with exception to only a pharmacist may witness methadone deliveries. However, a pharmacist may waive the need for a witnessed dose to allow for delivery by a non-pharmacist employee
Saskatchewan	Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals	Adopted all amendments
Manitoba	College of Pharmacists of Manitoba	Allowing delivery of controlled medications
Ontario	Ontario College of Pharmacists	Adopted all amendments
New Brunswick	NB College of Pharmacist	Adopted all amendments
Nova Scotia	Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists	Adopted all amendments
Newfoundland	Newfoundland & Labrador Pharmacy Board	Adopted all amendments, except for allowing receipt of verbal prescriptions for controlled substances
Prince Edward Island	Prince Edward Island College of Pharmacy	Adopted all amendments
Quebec	Ordre Des Pharmaciens Du Quebec	Adopted all amendments

If you have any questions about how your pharmacist can support you during the COVID-19; reach out to your local pharmacy team or to your Provincial Pharmacy College