

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: January 23, 2020
Re: Discontinuation of Continued Care Prescription (CCP) Agreements

In follow-up to the Professional Notice sent in May 2019, the NSCP Council is discontinuing the Continued Care Prescription (CCP) Agreements with the physician and nursing regulators. These agreements, and the authority for a pharmacist to provide a patient with an extended supply of a medication under them, will expire on March 31, 2020.

This means that effective April 1, 2020, all pharmacists must prescribe a renewal as set out in the [Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs](#) (Standards) in order to provide a patient with an additional supply of a previously prescribed medication. The updated Standards significantly broadens the circumstances in which a pharmacist may prescribe a renewal and enables pharmacists to better use their professional judgment in providing care to their patients.

To support pharmacists in using their professional judgment to renew a prescription, the Standards set out the following considerations:

- the extent to which the quantity provided may delay the patient being assessed by a primary care provider or specialist;
- an assessment of when the patient's health warrants them being seen by a primary care provider or specialist;
- the patient's access to care;
- the ongoing appropriateness of the drug therapy;
- the pharmacist's access to the information required to make the above assessments;
- the pharmacist's relationship and familiarity with the patient compared to that of a walk-in clinic or emergency department; and
- the pharmacist's competence in the management of drug therapy for the patient's ailment/condition/disease(s).

The NSCP will be communicating with the public to prepare them for what to expect when a pharmacist prescribes, including that the pharmacist will talk to them about their health and will have any in-person conversations with them about their personal health information in a private counselling room.

Pharmacists and pharmacy managers are encouraged to take the necessary steps to transition their practice from prescribing CCPs to prescribing renewals.