

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: November 7, 2022
Re: Patient Access to Medications During IT Disruption

The NSCP is aware of IT disruptions affecting the ability of some pharmacies in Nova Scotia to process prescriptions.

During this time, it is important that practitioners work together across pharmacies to meet patient needs, including prioritizing care to impacted patients needing access to critical medications.

The impact of the IT disruption includes an inability of pharmacies to transfer prescriptions. The [*Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs*](#) provides the following direction to pharmacists on prescribing for a renewal when a prescription transfer is not possible:

4.3 Occasionally it may be necessary for pharmacists to provide refills for patients whose home pharmacy is closed due to unforeseen circumstances, making a prescription transfer not possible. In this situation, pharmacists may prescribe for the patient by doing the following:

- consult the patient's Nova Scotia Drug Information System (DIS) profile
- prescribe the medication for the patient consistent with the number of refills remaining on the patient's prescription (for clarity when prescribing in this circumstance, the requirements in Standard 4.1 and Appendix C do not apply)
- discontinue/inactivate the existing prescription in the DIS.