

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: May 17, 2019
Re: Pending Discontinuation of Continued Care Prescription Agreements (CCPs)

In 2006, prior to pharmacists having prescribing authority, the NSCP entered into an agreement with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia (and with the College of Nurses of Nova Scotia in 2014) to allow pharmacists to prescribe an additional supply of a medication, under certain conditions, by providing a Continued Care Prescription (CCP).

Since 2011, pharmacists have had the authority to prescribe a renewal, and it has been Council's intention to discontinue the CCPs at some point. The modernized [Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs](#), updated in February 2019, significantly broadens the circumstances in which a pharmacist may prescribe a renewal and reflects current best pharmacy practice when prescribing an additional supply of a medication. These modernized standards make the CCP Agreements redundant. In recognition that the act of providing an additional supply of a previously prescribed medication warrants the same standard of care, the NSCP Council will be deciding on the timeline for discontinuing these agreements.

In the interim, pharmacy practitioners are reminded of the following:

- The CCP Agreements include that pharmacists must:
 - exercise professional judgment for each request for a CCP in consideration of the individual nature of the patient's need/history;
 - assume the responsibility for prescribing an additional supply of the medication; and
 - be reasonably satisfied that the physician, if available, would in all likelihood provide the authorization.

Meeting these requirements means that, at a minimum, a pharmacist is satisfied that it is appropriate for the patient to be prescribed an additional supply. Pharmacists are encouraged to reference considerations listed in s. 4.1 of the [Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs](#) to support them in making this determination of appropriateness.

- Prescribing a CCP is only authorized when there is an urgent need for patient drug therapy and the patient's physician is unavailable to provide refill authorization, and even then, only when several other conditions are met. The [Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs](#) authorizes prescribing in this situation as well as a wide range of others.

In consideration of the above, pharmacists and pharmacy managers are encouraged to take the necessary steps to transition their practice from prescribing CCPs to prescribing renewals.

The NSCP appreciates your ongoing commitment to provide the very best care to your patients.