

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners

From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists

Date: March 1, 2022

Re: Reminder: Tramadol Rescheduling

This is a reminder that, effective March 31, 2022, Tramadol will be rescheduled as a narcotic under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*.

This rescheduling means that Tramadol will be:

- monitored by the <u>Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program</u> and subject to the requirements set out in the <u>Prescription Monitoring Act</u> and <u>Regulations</u>.
- subject to requirements set out in the <u>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</u> and the <u>Narcotic Control</u> <u>Regulations</u> (please see the <u>Health Canada Controlled Drugs and Substances Bulletin</u> for details).

Of particular note, and consistent with other narcotics, refills on prescriptions for Tramadol will not be permitted. Any refills remaining on existing prescriptions cannot be filled after March 30, 2022. These prescriptions will need to be re-issued by an authorized prescriber, which includes pharmacists.

Although primary care providers will be made aware of this upcoming scheduling change, pharmacy practitioners should take steps now to educate affected patients and collaborate with prescribers to help ensure continuity of care for their shared patients, supporting a smooth transition at the pharmacy at the time of change.