

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: September 9, 2020
Re: Update on Pharmacy Practice Provisions for COVID-19

Pharmacists continue to be called upon to prescribe extended renewals and opioid agonist therapy (OAT) for their patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The NSCP is providing the following update on practice provisions that support pharmacists in meeting the needs of their patients.

CDSA Exemption Extension

Health Canada has extended the [Subsection 56\(l\) Class Exemption for Patients, Practitioners and Pharmacists Prescribing and Providing Controlled Substances in Canada During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) until **September 30, 2021**. Pharmacists should continue to consult the NSCP's [Emergency Protocol: Prescribing Narcotics, Controlled and Targeted Drugs](#) when prescribing controlled substances.

Consult Services

The following consult services are available free of charge to support pharmacists in their prescribing decisions.

Addictions Medicine

Nova Scotia Health's Mental Health and Addictions Program (MHAP) is excited to introduce a new Addictions Medicine Consult Service (AMCS). The consult service will offer advice by telephone to community pharmacists across the province, as well as physicians and nurse practitioners working in mental health and addictions, so they can better support their patients. It offers a straightforward and timely way for healthcare providers to access advice on:

- diagnosing and managing substance use disorders in adults, adolescents and children, and
- medications related to substance use.

The service is available Monday to Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm by calling 1-855-970-0234. An answering machine is available after hours to request a call back.

Routine Practice

The NSCP is continuing to support a [clinical practice consultant service](#) pilot project for community pharmacy practitioners. Pharmacists have been finding it helpful to use this service to support them in their prescribing decisions, including helping them to access patient information in SHARE and using it in their clinical decision making. It is essential that pharmacists use all available patient information and resources when providing care, and in particular when prescribing renewals.

Pharmacists should continue to contact the NSCP directly for all regulatory questions related to Standards of Practice.