

PRACTICE POLICY

Pharmacy Reference Requirements

Introduction

The profession of pharmacy continues to evolve with pharmacists leading drug therapy management to meet the needs of their patients. All pharmacy professionals are responsible for information retrieval, evaluation, and dissemination to ensure the provision of safe, effective, and evidence-based care. To fulfill this role, they must have ready access to current, credible, and objective drug and medical references.

This policy sets out the categories for which pharmacies are required to have appropriate references. Unless otherwise required in Legislation or Standards, there are no mandatory references. References should be chosen based upon the requirements of the practice.

Policy

Pharmacy Owners

Pharmacy owners must ensure that pharmacy managers are provided with the necessary resources to meet the requirements of this policy.

Pharmacy Managers

Pharmacy managers ensure that:

- the pharmacy is equipped with up-to-date references (electronic or print) that are necessary for the practice environment.
- at a minimum, the references must be applicable to the categories listed in this Policy.
- references used include a subscription service that is broadly recognized as an established source for evidence-based medical and drug information. (Examples include, but are not limited to, CPS, Micromedex, Lexicomp and Vigilance.)
- there is internet access in the pharmacy, on an organizational device, that enables pharmacy professionals to effectively research questions related to patient care, including being able to search primary literature.
- all pharmacy professionals employed by the pharmacy (including those employed on a casual or relief basis) are aware of and can access these resources.

Pharmacy Professionals

Pharmacy professionals are responsible for ensuring that:

- they use appropriate evidence-based references.
- they can access any required references.

Reference Categories

References must be maintained for each of the categories below. Note, one reference could be used to satisfy more than one category.

Reference Categories

1. Therapeutics
2. General Drug Information
3. Drug Interactions
4. Non-Prescription Drugs
5. Special Populations (pediatrics, pregnancy and lactation, geriatrics, renal dosing)
6. Foreign Drugs
7. Natural Health Products
8. Compounding
9. Nova Scotia Pharmacy Legislation, Standards, Code of Ethics, Policies, Position Statements, and Guidelines
10. Federal Legislation applicable to the practice of pharmacy