

# PRACTICE POLICY

## Return of Medication

### Policy

A pharmacist may accept, **for disposal only**, medication previously dispensed to a patient and removed from a pharmacy except in the following circumstances:

A pharmacist may accept, **for return to inventory**:

1. Medication previously dispensed to a facility licensed pursuant to the Homes for Special Care Act where in the exercise of professional judgment it is appropriate to do so and where all the following conditions are met:
  - the patient has not been in possession of the medication;
  - the lot numbers and expiry dates (where applicable) of the medication are directly attached to the dispensed container;
  - the medication has not been packaged with other medications within the same blister, envelope, or other container;
  - each dose of the medication is individually sealed, and the seal is intact at the time of the return to the pharmacy;
  - the pharmacist has sufficient knowledge of the medication administration and storage conditions/policies of the facility registered under the Homes for Special Care Act to permit the exercise of professional judgment; and
  - the medication returned is stored in a separate container from the manufacturer's container and is labelled with the name of the medication (including the manufacturer if appropriate), the DIN #, Lot #, and the expiry date.
2. Injectable medication previously dispensed for the purpose of providing Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) if they are satisfied that:
  - the medication has not left the possession of the physician or nurse practitioner, or a licensed health care professional designated by the physician or nurse practitioner;
  - each dose (vial/ampoule, etc.) is full and has not been used (i.e.: has an intact seal or other evidence of it being tamper-proof); and
  - the medication has been stored in accordance with the manufacturer's required storage conditions.

3. Other medications including, but not limited to, high-cost specialty medications where in their professional judgment it is appropriate to do so, and where all of the following conditions are met:
  - The medication has not been dispensed directly to the patient and the patient has not been in possession of the medication;
  - The medication is for a commercially available product, is in its original packaging, and any security seals remain intact (for clarity, repackaged products are not eligible for return);
  - The medication was delivered to another regulated health care provider in accordance with a written agreement established between the pharmacy and the healthcare provider that sets out the responsibilities and accountabilities of both parties, including the storage conditions, cold chain policies, and delivery procedures;
  - Claims to third party insurance providers are adjusted or amounts charged to patients are refunded to ensure that the pharmacy only receives one payment for the cost of the drug; and
  - The return to stock is done in accordance with the Code of Ethics.