Prescriptions

- Reasonable steps must be taken to ensure a written, verbal, or faxed prescription, where permitted, is authentic and the prescriber is licensed and practices in Canada and belongs to a class of persons who, if licensed in Nova Scotia, would be entitled by law to prescribe that drug or device in Nova Scotia.
- There shall be no initial dispensing of a prescription, and no prescription shall be refilled after a period of one year from the date prescribed.

Prescription Transfers

- Upon request, a pharmacist or pharmacy technician shall transfer a prescription or the remaining refills of a prescription to another pharmacist or pharmacy technician licensed in a Canadian jurisdiction.
- The pharmacist or pharmacy technician who transfers a prescription shall enter the fact that the prescription was transferred on the patient's record and include the date of transfer, the name of the receiving pharmacist or pharmacy technician and pharmacy, the identity of the transferring pharmacist or pharmacy technician and any other relevant information and cancel all remaining refills.
- The pharmacist or pharmacy technician to whom a prescription has been transferred shall reduce the prescription to writing and record the name of the transferring pharmacist or pharmacy technician and pharmacy, the number of authorized refills remaining, the date of the last refill, the date of the original prescription and the prescription number.
- When transferring a prescription from outside Nova Scotia, the prescriber must be licensed and practicing in Canada and belong to a class of persons who, if licensed in Nova Scotia, would be entitled by law to prescribe that drug or device in Nova Scotia.
- Transfers are only permitted for Narcotics ,Controlled Drugs, and Targeted Substances in accordance with the Health Canada Section 56 Exemption.
- Only a pharmacist may transfer / accept a transfer of a Narcotic, Controlled Drug, or Targeted Substance.

Note: The transfer must comply with the Food & Drug Act (Canada), the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) and the regulations under those Acts.

Destruction

All drugs awaiting destruction will be stored in a manner that restricts unauthorized access and that enables ready identification of tampering and/or diversion. Pharmacies will destroy CDSA drugs at the earliest opportunity, in a manner required by law, and consistent with recognized best practices in minimizing negative environmental impact.

Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (NSPMP)

- No pharmacist shall dispense a prescription for drug monitored by the NSPMP unless the prescription is issued in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Program.
- Pharmacists shall obtain a signature or electronic equivalent from the patient or patient's agent for every release of a Narcotic or Controlled Drug.
- Pharmacists may access patient profiles through the NS Drug Information system or PMP's e-Access to ensure the appropriate use of and to reduce the misuse of monitored drugs. Further PMP information can be accessed at (902) 496-7123 or www.nspmp.ca.
- All prescribers (including those from out of province) must register with the Program in order for prescriptions written by them for monitored drugs to be filled in Nova Scotia pharmacies.

Note: In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, NSPMP implemented changes to its requirements for monitored drugs. These changes remain in effect until further notice. Please consult the NS PMP Bulletins for updated details.

Diversion

Report any loss or theft to the Office of Controlled Substances within 10 days of discovery using the *Loss or Theft Report Form for Controlled Substances and Precursors* (found on the Health Canada website); a copy of this report is to be forwarded to the NSCP. Loss, theft, and forged prescriptions should be reported to the local police authority.

Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists

Summary of Federal and Provincial Laws and Regulations Governing the Dispensing of Prescription Drugs in Nova Scotia

January 2023

Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
~ Prescription Regulations Summary ~

Classification/Description	Prescription Requirements			Refills	Part-Fills	Records
	Written	Verbal	Fax			
Narcotic Drugs * 1 Narcotic: e.g. Cocaine, Codeine (Codeine Contin®), Hydromorphone (Dilaudid®, Hydromorph Contin®), Morphine (M.O.S.®, MS Contin®, MS-IR®) 1 Narcotic + 1 active non-narcotic ingredient: e.g. Tylenol® #4, Tylenol® w Codeine Elixir, Suboxone® **All narcotics for parenteral use:** e.g. Fentanyl Injection **All products containing:** Hydrocodone (Tussionex®, Hycodan®, Dimetane® Exp. DC), Oxycodone (OxyNeo®, Oxy-IR®, Percodan®, Percocet®, Endocet®) Nabilone (Cesamet®), Methadone (Metadol®)	**YES** Prescriptions to be written on a duplicate Rx form approved by the NS Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) **For exemptions to PMP see Reference Key**	**YES+**	**YES++**	**NO**	**YES** **Note:** Refer to the Health Canada document: *Prescription management by pharmacists with controlled substances under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its regulations* Part-filling: "dispensing a quantity of a medication which is less than the total amount of the drug specified by a practitioner; For greater clarity, this includes part-fills requested by a patient, when a pharmacy is dealing with an inventory shortage or other situations where the nature of the part fill is a matter of discussion between the pharmacist and patient."	**Purchases:** Require that a signature from a licensed pharmacist be provided to the supplier. All purchases for Narcotic Drugs, Narcotic Preparations and Controlled Drugs and their preparations, including Exempted Codeine Compounds, are to be recorded. The record should include the brand name, quantity, strength, the name of the supplier and the date received. Records, including printed computer reports, must be current and kept for at least 2 years. **Sales:** Sales reports are required by federal legislation for all **Narcotic Drugs** and **Controlled Drugs - Part I**. **Retention:** Prescriptions for Narcotic Drugs, Narcotic Preparations and all Controlled Drugs and their preparations may be filed together but must be filed in sequence and separated from all other prescriptions. Records of prescriptions dispensed must be kept in accordance with section 37 (1) of the *Registration, Licensing and Professsional Accountability Regulations* . The legal requirement to store the prescription is considered to be met if the prescription is scanned into a secure electronic database. Refer to the NSCP Policy *Record Retention: Electronic Storage of Prescriptions.* **Loss & Theft:** Report any loss or theft to the Office of Controlled Substances within 10 days of discovery using the *Loss or Theft Report Form for Controlled Substances and Precursors* (found on Health Canada website); a copy of this report is to be forwarded to the NSCP. **Inventory Management:** In addition to the above, the inventory for narcotics and controlled drugs must be managed in accordance with the NSCP Policy *Inventory Management of CDSA and Z-Drugs.*
Narcotic Preparations * Verbal Prescription Narcotics : 1 narcotic + 2 or more non-narcotic ingredients: e.g: Fiorinal C®, 292® Dimetapp C®, Tylenol® #2 & #3, 282®, and Robitussin AC® Exempted Codeine Compounds (OTC): Codeine up to 8mg/solid dosage form or 20mg/30mL liquid + 2 or more active non-narcotic ingredients: e.g: Tylenol® #1 or 222®	**YES** Prescriptions to be written on a duplicate Rx form approved by the NS Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) **For exemptions to PMP see Reference Key**	**YES++**	**YES++**	**NO**		
Controlled Drugs - Part I * 1 or more controlled drugs eg: Dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine®), Methylphenidate (Concerta®) **Controlled Drug Preparations Part I** 1 controlled drug + 1 or more active non-controlled drug(s)	**YES** Prescriptions to be written on a duplicate Rx form approved by the NS Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) **For exemptions to PMP see Reference Key**	**YES++**	**YES++**	**Yes, if written, and the Rx includes dates for, or intervals between refills**		
Controlled Drugs - Part II * Barbiturates and their salts and derivatives: e.g. Phenobarbital **Controlled Drug Preparations Part II*** Combinations containing 1 controlled drug + 1 or more active non-controlled drug: e.g. Fiorinal®	**YES** Prescriptions to be written on a duplicate Rx form approved by the NS Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) **For exemptions to PMP see Reference Key**	**YES++**	**YES++**	**Yes, if the Rx includes the dates for, or intervals between refills**		
Controlled Drugs - Part III * Anabolic Steroids: e.g. Testosterone (Andriol®) - **see Reference Key 2.(c)**, Androderm® Patch, Androgel®, Delatestryl®)	**YES** Prescriptions to be written on a duplicate Rx form approved by the NS Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) **For exemptions to PMP see Reference Key**	**YES++**	**YES++**	**Yes, if the Rx includes the dates for, or intervals between refills**		
Benzodiazepines and other Targeted Substances *See Reference Key Benzodiazepines, their salts and derivatives (EXCEPT clozapine and olanzepine): e.g. Alprazolam (Xanax®), Bromazepam (Lectopam®), Chlordiazepoxide, Clobazam, Clonazepam (Rivotril®), Diazepam (Valium®), Lorazepam (Ativan®), Oxazepam, Triazolam	**YES** NSPMP Duplicate Prescription not required	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**		**Purchases:** Require that a signature from a licensed pharmacist be provided to the supplier. All purchases must be recorded. The record will include the brand name, quantity, strength per unit, # of units/pkg. and # pkgs., the name of the supplier and the date received. **Sales:** Sales report not required for prescriptions but is required for sales to a pharmacy, a practitioner or a hospital. **Retention:** Records of prescriptions dispensed may be filed with regular prescriptions. Records of prescriptions dispensed must be kept in accordance with section 37 (1) of the *Registration, Licensing and Professsional Accountability Regulations* . The legal requirement to store the prescription is considered to be met if the prescription is scanned into a secure electronic database. Refer to the NSCP Policy *Record Retention: Electronic Storage of Prescriptions* . **Loss & Theft:** Report any loss or theft to the Office of Controlled Substances within 10 days of discovery using the *Loss or Theft Report Form for Controlled Substances and Precursors* (found on Health Canada website); a copy of this report is to be forwarded to the NSCP.
Prescription Drugs (formerly Schedule F) All drugs listed in the Prescription Drug List (formerly Schedule F) of the Food and Drug Act and Regulations.	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**	**YES**		**Sales:** Purchase and sales reports are not required. **Retention:** Records of prescriptions dispensed must be kept in accordance with section 37 (1) of the *Registration, Licensing and Professsional Accountability Regulations* . The legal requirement to store the prescription is considered to be met if the prescription is scanned into a secure electronic database. Refer to the NSCP Policy *Record Retention: Electronic Storage of Prescriptions.*

REFERENCE KEY:

\+ In accordance with the Health Canada Section 56 Exemption

++ In accordance with the NS PMP changes implemented in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Please note the following are exempted from the NS Prescription Monitoring Program requirements, however federal requirements remain.

1. Prescriptions written by veterinarians for their patients (birds, fish, animals)
2. Prescriptions for inpatients of hospitals as defined by the *Hospitals Act*
3. Prescriptions for testosterone compounded by a pharmacist (e.g. creams) for topical application for local effect
4. Prescriptions for residents in a licensed nursing home as defined by the Homes for Special Care Act.

Note: this exemption applies only to the licensed nursing homes found in the *Directory of Nursing Homes and Homes for the Aged* and only as long as the residents of these homes have their medication administered to them by an authorized employee of the home.

Refer to s. 2 (2) (b) and s. 13 (2) of the Prescription Monitoring Regulations

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*The products noted are examples only and all drugs in a given classification may not be listed.

October 2024