

This policy provides guidance to pharmacists when providing patients with an emergency supply of prescription drugs for continuity of care in exceptional circumstances in accordance with the *Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act* (“PODSA”) Bylaws section 19(7)(d).

POLICY STATEMENTS:

1. A pharmacist may exercise professional judgment to provide a patient with an emergency supply of prescription drugs for continuity of care using the following principles:
 - a) **Individual competence:** The pharmacist has appropriate knowledge and understanding of the condition and the drug being dispensed for emergency supply;
 - b) **Sufficient information:** The pharmacist has sufficient information about the patient's health status to determine that dispensing an emergency supply is appropriate in the given circumstances;
 - c) **Appropriate quantity:** The pharmacist should determine an appropriate quantity of the emergency supply based on what is reasonable in the given circumstances, and based on the drug involved;
 - d) **Informed consent:** The pharmacist has obtained the patient's or the patient representative's informed consent before undertaking an emergency supply;
 - e) **Documentation:** The pharmacist responsible for making the decision to provide an emergency supply should:
 - i. document in the patient's record the rationale for the decision and any appropriate follow-up plan;
 - ii. ensure the PharmaNet dispensing record includes the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia pharmacist registration number in the practitioner ID field to identify the pharmacist responsible for the decision; and
 - f) **Notification of other health professionals:** Where possible and appropriate, the pharmacist should notify the practitioner in a timely fashion and should make a record of this in the patient's record.