

**POLICY STATEMENT(S):**

Pharmacists may exercise professional judgment in the provision of emergency prescription refill supplies of a medication. This practice is *the exception to the rule and not the normal practice*.

A pharmacist may dispense an emergency refill in the following situations;

- where a patient's medication supply has been exhausted, a refill may be dispensed to ensure continuity of care. OR
- where a patient attends the pharmacy for an authorized refill of a valid prescription but PharmaNet returns the message, '101 Prescriber not found' or 'D3 Prescriber is not authorized' and the pharmacist ensures that the patient is not on Pharmacare's *Restricted Claimants Program*, a refill may be dispensed to ensure continuity of care and to allow time for the patient to find a new prescriber.

The pharmacist must comply with each of the following practice fundamentals;

**1. Individual competence**

- a. Pharmacist has appropriate knowledge and understanding of the condition and the drug being dispensed in order to adapt the prescription.

**2. Appropriate information**

- a. Pharmacist has sufficient information about the specific patient's health status to ensure that dispensing an emergency refill of the prescription will ensure continuity of care and will not put the patient at increased risk.

**3. Appropriateness**

- a. Pharmacist must use their professional judgment to determine whether provision of an emergency refill is appropriate in the circumstances, and must determine an appropriate days supply based on the drug involved and how long it will take the patient to see a prescriber.

**4. Informed consent**

- a. Pharmacist must obtain the informed consent of the patient or patient's representative before undertaking an emergency refill.

**5. Documentation**

- a. Pharmacists must use their CPBC pharmacist registration numbers in the PharmaNet practitioner ID field to identify the responsible decision-maker when providing an emergency supply of a drug to a patient.
- b. Pharmacists must document in the client's record any emergency refill of the prescription, the rationale for the decision, and any appropriate follow-up plan.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Protocol for provision of an emergency prescription refill**

This professional practice policy enables pharmacists to exercise their professional judgment and education by providing authorization to provide an emergency prescription refill to ensure continuity of patient care until the prescriber can be contacted for authorization. This policy is not mandatory and the decision of whether to provide an emergency prescription refill is at the discretion of the individual pharmacist.