PRESCRIPTION REGULATIONS

A synopsis of federal and provincial laws and regulations governing the distribution of drugs by prescription in British Columbia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>PRESCRIPTION REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>REFILLS</th>
<th>SALES RECORD</th>
<th>FILES AND RECORDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Narcotic Drug</strong> *</td>
<td>All single-entity narcotics. All narcotics for parenteral use. All narcotic compounds containing more than one narcotic drug. All narcotic compounds containing less than two other non-narcotic ingredients in a therapeutic dose. All products containing any substance listed in the schedule to the Narcotic Control Regulations.</td>
<td>Written or faxed prescription by a physician, dentist, veterinarian, nurse practitioner, nurse, or podiatrist. Prescription must include components detailed immediately below. Note: Schedule IA drugs cannot be prescribed by practitioners. Transfer of ‘part-fills’ and undispensed prescriptions are not permitted.</td>
<td>No refills allowed. All ‘re-orders’ must be new written prescriptions. Written “part-fill” instruction can be included, specifying the total prescription quantity plus the interval between each “part-fill.” Transfer of ‘part-fills’ and undispensed prescriptions are not permitted.</td>
<td>All prescription sales (except those for deslorelinaprate) must be recorded in a register or a computer-printed report. The register or computer-printed report must be current and kept for at least three years.</td>
<td>1. Narcotic and controlled drug purchases must be recorded in a book or register and must be readily available. 2. Prescriptions for narcotics, controlled drugs, and preparations of either may be filled together, but must be separated from all other prescriptions. 3. All prescriptions, whether in writing from the practitioner or received verbally and recorded by a pharmacist, must be filled in sequence according to date and prescription number or transaction number. 4. All prescriptions must be kept for at least three years after their most recent activity, including refill transactions. 5. All dispensed prescription medication and authorized refills must be recorded on a patient medication profile for each patient. 6. At the time of dispensing a verbal prescription narcotic, a controlled drug, or a targeted substance pursuant to a verbal order, the written record must also include the patient’s address, practitioner’s initials and address, form of drug, and name or initials of the pharmacist who transcribed the verbal order. 7. Each dispensing of a new prescription, a refill part-fill, a renewal or a balance owing must show the address of the patient, identification number from the practitioner’s regulatory college, prescription number, date dispensed, drug identification number or brand name of the product dispensed, quantity dispensed, and the written identification of the registrant who verified the patient identification, verified the patient allergy information, reviewed the patient’s PharmNet profile, performed the final product check, performed the consultation, and identified and addressed a drug therapy problem (if any). 8. For methadone prescriptions, all part-fill documentation must be recorded and filed with the original prescription. The methadone part-fill accountability log book which the patient and pharmacist both sign at each part-fill may be used for this purpose. Documentation for each methadone part-fill must show the prescription number, date dispensed, quantity dispensed, the pharmacist’s initials and patient’s signature. For all other narcotic and control drug prescriptions, the part-fill history does not have to be filed with the original prescription provided that the software program allows tracking between the part-fills and the original prescription. A “paper trail” copy of the part-fill prescription must be created and filed on the date of dispensing the part-fill.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This table is intended to provide a summary of prescription regulations governed by federal and provincial legislation and is subject to change. Enquiries should refer to the most up-to-date legislation when using this document, including but not limited to the underlined hyperlinks referred to in this document.

* Some (but not all) products in this category may also be included in the list of drugs monitored by the Controlled Prescription Program (CPP), the requirements for which exceed the requirements for this classification.
### Targeted Drug Substances (Part 1)

A product or compound that contains any substance listed in Schedule 1 of the Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations (e.g., all benzodiazepines and their salts and derivatives, but excluding the thienobenzodiazepines, flunitrazepam, clonazapine, clofazapam, ethylcyonynol, ethinamate, fencamfamin, fenproporex, mazindol, mefenorex, meprobamate, methyprylon, pipradol).

Written, verbal or fixed prescription by a physician, dentist, veterinarian, nurse practitioner or podiatrist. Midwives may prescribe benzodiazepines. Requirements of a prescription as on page one.

Refills may be authorized on original written or verbal prescription and must indicate the specific number of times and interval between refills. *Refill PRN* is not an acceptable authority for refilling a prescription. Requests for refills beyond those originally authorized necessitate the initiation of a new prescription. Transfer of undispensed prescriptions and authorized refills by a pharmacist is only permitted once in the lifetime of the prescription.

Prescription sales do not need to be recorded in a register or computer-printed report, except when an emergency supply is provided to another pharmacist and returns to licensed dealers.

Same as point 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 on page 1. Prescriptions for targeted drug substances are filed with the Prescription Drug List prescriptions.

### Other Prescription Drugs (Prescription Drug List)

Formerly known as Schedule F to the Food and Drug Regulations.

All other drugs listed as Schedule I in the Drug Schedules Regulation to the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act (which contains all drugs in the Prescription Drug List to the Regulations to the Food and Drugs Act (Canada), plus a number of others).

Written, verbal or fixed prescription by a physician, dentist, veterinarian, podiatrist, nurse practitioner, optometrist, naturopathic physician or midwife. All prescriptions must include:

- Patient’s name
- Practitioner’s name and signature (for written prescriptions)
- Name, strength, and quantity, of drug(s) or ingredients
- Complete directions for use, including the frequency, interval or maximum daily dose
- Number of refills and interval between refills if applicable
- Date prescription written
- The prescription record of verbal prescriptions must include the signature or initial of the registrant who receives the verbal prescription authorization either directly from a practitioner or from a practitioner’s recorded voice message.

Refills may be authorized on original written or verbal prescriptions and must indicate the specific number of times and interval between refills. *Refill PRN* is not an acceptable authority for refilling a prescription. Transfer of undispensed prescriptions and authorized refills is permitted. A registrant who transfers a prescription to another registrant must enter the date of the transfer, the registrant’s identification, identification of the community pharmacy to which the prescription was transferred, and identification of the person to whom the prescription was transferred on the patient record.

Prescription sales do not need to be recorded. Same as points 4, 5 and 7 on page 1. All prescriptions, whether in writing from the practitioner or received verbally and recorded by a registrant, must be filed in sequence according to date and prescription number or transaction number.

### Controlled Prescription Program (CPP) Drugs

All drugs listed as Schedule 1A in the Drug Schedules Regulation to the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act.

Written prescription on an approved two-part form. Fax transmission is not allowed in community pharmacies (exception: licensed facilities)

- More than one strength of medication can be included on one Controlled Prescription Program form, provided the orders are legible.
- The prescription expires after midnight of the fifth day following the date of issuance by the practitioner, unless the prescription is for methadone.

No refills permitted. All “re-order” must be new written CPP forms.

Written “part-fill” instruction can be included (as for narcotics). Transfer of “part-fills” and undispensed prescriptions are not permitted.

CPP prescriptions for straight narcotic drugs and Schedule G, Part I drugs (Controlled Drugs Part I) must be recorded in a register or a computer-printed report.

Same as points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 on page 1. The patient’s or agent’s signature must be obtained on the “Pharmacy Use Only” section of the CPP form upon receipt of the dispensed drug.

---

A pharmacist must not dispense a prescription more than one year from the prescribing date, except for oral contraceptives which may be dispensed for up to two years. HPA Bylaw, Community Pharmacy Standards of Practice s.10(5).

Refill Authorization Documentation – Refill prescription authorizations may be added to the original prescription instead of creating a new prescription when (1) a computerized transaction log is maintained, or (2) a new prescription number is assigned and a new hard copy prescription is prepared.