

**HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT BYLAWS SCHEDULE F
Part 8 – MAKING A DIAGNOSIS AND PRESCRIBING**

STANDARDS, LIMITS, AND CONDITIONS

APPLICATION

This Part applies to full pharmacists, and sets out the standards, limits, and conditions when making a diagnosis or prescribing Schedule I drugs under the Pharmacists Regulation, including for certainty the prescribing of Schedule I drugs for the purpose of contraception or emergency contraception.

When a pharmacist makes a diagnosis or prescribes a drug, they will do so in accordance with these standards, limits, and conditions, as well as the Code of Ethics; Conflict of Interest Standards; the Indigenous Cultural Safety, Humility, and Anti-Racism Practice Standard; and all legislation, regulations, bylaws, and policies affecting pharmacy practice in British Columbia.

STANDARDS

Competencies, Knowledge, and Professional Ethics

- 1) A pharmacist may make a diagnosis or prescribe a drug for a patient:
 - a) only within the scope of their education, training, and competence; and
 - b) if they have the appropriate knowledge and understanding of the patient need or condition and the drug being prescribed.
- 2) A pharmacist must advise the patient to seek medical attention from an appropriate healthcare professional when making a diagnosis or prescribing are beyond the scope of practice or knowledge, skills, and abilities of the pharmacist.
- 3) A pharmacist must obtain the patient or patient representative's informed and voluntary consent prior to making a diagnosis or prescribing a drug for the patient.
- 4) A pharmacist must act in the best interest of the patient when making a diagnosis or prescribing a drug.
- 5) When prescribing a drug for a patient, a pharmacist must:
 - a) take all appropriate steps to ensure that the prescribed drug is safe for the patient;
 - b) ensure the prescribing decision and drug selection are based on patient need and clinical suitability; and

- c) ensure the patient has sufficient information about the prescribed therapy, including risks and benefits, to make an informed decision.
- 6) A pharmacist must only prescribe a drug if the intended use is for an indication approved by Health Canada, or for an off-label indication, that is:
- a) considered a best practice or accepted clinical practice in peer-reviewed clinical literature; or
 - b) part of an approved research protocol.
- 7) A pharmacist who makes a diagnosis or prescribes a drug, is solely responsible for their treatment decisions.
- 8) In settings where the Community Pharmacy Standards of Practice in Part 1 of this Schedule apply, the pharmacist must inform the patient of the option to have the prescription dispensed at another pharmacy and must provide the prescription to the patient at the patient's request.

Assessment

- 9) Prior to prescribing a drug, a pharmacist must obtain relevant drug therapy information, which may include a review of:
- a) the patient or resident record¹;
 - b) the patient PharmaNet record; or
 - c) information provided by the patient or patient's representative.
- 10) A pharmacist must review or conduct a patient assessment to support their diagnosis and/or prescribing decisions. The assessment must include the following as feasible and applicable, but is not limited to these factors:
- a) demographic information;
 - b) medical conditions;
 - c) medication history;
 - d) signs and symptoms;
 - e) allergies and intolerances;

¹Patient record is referred to in section 11 of the *Health Professions Act* Bylaws Schedule F part 1, Community Pharmacy Standards of Practice and in section 12 of the *Health Professions Act* Bylaws Schedule F Part 2, Hospital Pharmacy Standards of Practice. Resident record is referred to in section 13 of the *Health Professions Act* Bylaws Schedule F Part 3, Residential Care Facilities and Homes Standards of Practice

- f) risk factors;
- g) pregnancy and lactation status;
- h) physical assessment;
- i) laboratory or other diagnostic tests, if available;
- j) patient needs, values, and preferences; and
- k) any other information deemed necessary.

11) When making a diagnosis or prescribing a drug, the pharmacist must take the appropriate steps to ensure the assessment is conducted in a manner that the patient confirms as suitably private.

Information Provided to Patient

12) A pharmacist who prescribes a drug must provide the patient with drug information, including patient-specific information. This may include:

- a) name and strength of the drug;
- b) purpose of the drug;
- c) directions for use;
- d) expected therapeutic outcomes; and
- e) when to seek additional medical attention.

Follow-up and Monitoring

13) A pharmacist who prescribes a drug must establish and document a follow-up and monitoring plan appropriate to the patient's needs and the prescribed treatment which may include:

- a) informing patients of the need for follow-up care to monitor the effectiveness and safety of treatment;
- b) monitoring patients for any adverse drug events and the patient's response to treatment;
- c) stopping drug therapy if it is not effective or the risks outweigh the benefits; and
- d) informing patients when to seek additional medical attention.

Documentation

14) A pharmacist who prescribes a drug for a patient must document:

- a) patient information, including personal health number (PHN), if available;
- b) acknowledgement of informed consent;
- c) patient assessment;

- d) prescribing decision and rationale, including diagnosis;
- e) prescription information, including all information that is required for a prescription²;
- f) instructions provided to the patient, including the monitoring and follow-up plan;
- g) name of the patient's primary health care provider or other health care provider that was notified and the date of notification, if applicable; and
- h) patient response to treatment, if applicable.

Notification

- 15) A pharmacist who prescribes a drug must notify and communicate the prescribing information to the patient's primary healthcare provider or other healthcare provider, if available, when the pharmacist determines it to be in the patient's best interest or when notification is directed by the patient.

LIMITS

- 16) Only a full pharmacist may perform the restricted activities of making a diagnosis or prescribing a Schedule I drug and may only do so for the purposes set out in the Pharmacists Regulation.
- 17) A pharmacist must not prescribe for themselves or a family member, except in an emergency situation and when another prescriber is not readily available. If prescribing in this situation, the pharmacist must document the emergency situation, including their relationship to the patient.

CONDITION

- 18) A pharmacist must not make a diagnosis or prescribe a drug prior to completion of the regulatory educational requirements approved by the Board.

² *Health Professions Act, Bylaws, Schedule F, section 6(2) of Part 1, section 13(2) of Part 2, and section 8 of Part 3.*