



Pharmacy References

Purpose

This Regulatory Statement establishes the list of pharmacy reference materials required by the College bylaws under the *Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act* (“PODSA”).

Background

Pharmacy staff need to have access to professional or technical reference materials necessary or appropriate for ensuring they are able to meet their professional obligations under the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* and PODSA. Section 18(2)(v)(i) of the College bylaws under PODSA (“PODSA Bylaws”) requires every pharmacy’s manager to ensure the pharmacy contains the applicable reference materials set out in a list of required reference materials that is established and maintained by the registrar for that purpose.

Position

The requirement for maintaining in-pharmacy reference materials reflected in section 18(2)(v)(i) of the PODSA Bylaws dates back to the pre-Internet era. The College position is that the requirement to ‘contain’ the references should be understood and applied in the context of the modern pharmacy operating environment.

The College therefore considers that the requirement will be met if the pharmacy’s manager ensures the pharmacy is equipped with, and maintains, access to one or more of the required resources through any of the following:

- Legible printed versions kept within the pharmacy.
- Electronically formatted files stored in and accessible through the IT systems or networks used by the pharmacy.
- Online database subscriptions.
- Internet/World Wide Web browser-based access.
- Other similar or appropriate electronic methods.

Requirements

1. Currency and Availability

Required resources made available electronically must be at least as comprehensive and current as the corresponding current print version, if any.

All required resources, whether print or electronic, must be readily accessible to staff working within the dispensary area during the pharmacy's operating hours.

2. Hospital Pharmacies and Hospital Pharmacy Satellites

All hospital pharmacies and hospital pharmacy satellites must be equipped with the following resources:

- References relevant to the services provided in or by the hospital or other facilities supported by the hospital pharmacy or hospital pharmacy satellite.
- All legislation (i.e., statutes, regulations, and College bylaws) relevant to general pharmacy practice or hospital pharmacy practice and management.
- All Regulatory Statements issued by the College.

3. Community Pharmacies and Telepharmacies

All community pharmacies and telepharmacies must be equipped with the following resources:

- References relevant to the services provided in or by the pharmacy or telepharmacy.
- All legislation (i.e., statutes, regulations, and College bylaws) relevant to general pharmacy practice or community pharmacy practice and management.
- All Regulatory Statements issued by the College.
- All ReadLinks articles published by the College in the current calendar year and the three previous calendar years.
- At least one of the authorized library references in each of the categories set out in the Appendix to this Regulatory Statement (unless otherwise noted).

Legislation

- PODSA s. 7.1, s. 21(1)
- PODSA Bylaws s. 18(2)(v)(i)

Additional Information

This Regulatory Statement replaces and supersedes Professional Practice Policy-3.

RS Number:	26-006
Approved by:	Registrar
First approved:	30 Mar 2026
Effective:	01 Apr 2026
Revised:	n/a
Version:	1.0

APPENDIX A

CATEGORY	VERSION	REFERENCE (* items marked with an asterisk are available electronically only)
COMPENDIUM	Current year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (Canadian Pharmacists Association)
COMPLEMENTARY / ALTERNATIVE	Within the last 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockley's Herbal Medicines Interactions • *Facts & Comparisons® eAnswers at online.factsandcomparisons.com • *iPharmacist (mobile app by Apotex) • *UpToDate Lexidrug at online.lexi.com OR Lexidrug (mobile app by Wolters Kluwer) • *MedicinesComplete at www.MedicinesComplete.com • *Micromedex at www.Micromedex.com OR its mobile app • *NatMed Pro at https://naturalmedicines.therapeuticresearch.com/ OR mobile app by Therapeutic Research Center • *Natural Medicines at www.naturalmedicines.com
DISPENSARY	Within the last 9 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martindale - The Complete Drug Reference • *iPharmacist (mobile app by Apotex) • *UpToDate Lexidrug at online.lexi.com OR Lexidrug mobile app by Wolters Kluwer) • *MedicinesComplete at www.MedicinesComplete.com • *Micromedex at www.Micromedex.com OR its mobile app
DRUG INTERACTIONS	In its entirety every 2 years, or continual updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockley's Drug Interactions (Pharmaceutical Press) • *Facts & Comparisons® eAnswers at online.factsandcomparisons.com • *iPharmacist (mobile app by Apotex) • *UpToDate Lexidrug at online.lexi.com OR Lexidrug mobile app by Wolters Kluwer) • *MedicinesComplete at www.MedicinesComplete.com • *Micromedex at www.Micromedex.com OR its mobile app. • *RxTx Option 2 OR RxTx Option 3 at www.pharmacists.ca
MEDICAL DICTIONARY * Those listed or any equivalent professional medical dictionary	Within the last 15 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary • Dorland's Pocket Medical Dictionary • Stedman's Medical Dictionary • Stedman's Medical Dictionary-Health Professions and Nursing • Taber's Medical Dictionary • *UpToDate Lexidrug at online.lexi.com OR Lexidrug mobile app by Wolters Kluwer) • *Micromedex at www.Micromedex.com OR its mobile app • *MedicinesComplete at www.MedicinesComplete.com • *The Free Dictionary by Farlex at http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/
NONPRESCRIPTION MEDICATION	Most current version	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPS (https://cps2.pharmacists.ca/), OR BOTH 1 & 2 below: • 1. Compendium of Therapeutics for Minor Ailments (Canadian Pharmacists Association) • 2. Compendium of Products for Minor Ailments (Canadian Pharmacists Association)

CATEGORY	VERSION	REFERENCE (* items marked with an asterisk are available electronically only)
PREGNANCY AND LACTATION	Within the last 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs in Pregnancy and Lactation: A Reference Guide to Fetal and Neonatal Risk (Briggs) • Drugs during Pregnancy and Lactation: Treatment Options and Risk Assessment (Schaefer et al) • Medications and Mother's Milk (Hale) or online version. • *Facts & Comparisons® eAnswers at online.factsandcomparisons.com • *iPharmacist (mobile app by Apotex) • *UpToDate Lexidrug at online.lexi.com OR Lexidrug mobile app by Wolters Kluwer) • *Micromedex at www.Micromedex.com OR its mobile app • *Medications and Mother's Milk at www.medsmilk.com • *MedicinesComplete at www.Medicinescomplete.com
PEDIATRICS	Within the last 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pediatric & Neonatal Dosage Handbook (American College of Clinical Pharmacy) • Pediatric Drug Dosage Guidelines (British Columbia's Children's Hospital) • *BC Children's and Women's Hospital (C&W) Online Formulary at http://www.pedmed.org/DrugApp/index.html • iPharmacist (mobile app by Apotex) • **UpToDate Lexidrug at online.lexi.com OR Lexidrug mobile app by Wolters Kluwer) • *Micromedex at www.Micromedex.com OR its mobile app.
THERAPEUTICS	Within the last 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compendium of Therapeutic Choices [formerly called <i>Therapeutic Choices</i>] (Canadian Pharmacists Association)