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- Harriet Davies
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1 INTRODUCTION

The Pharmacist Drug Prescribing Regulations were approved by the Province of Nova Scotia in January 2010, pursuant to subsection 80(2) of the Pharmacy Act of Nova Scotia, Chapter 36 of the Acts of 2001.

The Regulations enable pharmacists in the province to more fully apply their skills and competencies within the health care system as experts in medication therapy management. In the interests of the health and well-being of Nova Scotians, pharmacist prescribing provides the opportunity for pharmacists to further support the current objectives and challenges of health care delivery in the province, including:

- patient-centred model of care,
- patient access to timely and appropriate health care,
- efficient delivery of health care services,
- best use of health care human resource capacity,
- inter-professional collaboration, and
- optimal drug therapy outcomes and safety.

The Regulations authorize pharmacists to provide expanded services associated with prescribing drugs and to more effectively fulfill the intent and purpose of the Pharmacy Act which states that pharmacists are responsible for the provision of optimal patient care, monitoring drug therapy and ensuring the pharmaceutical and therapeutic appropriateness of drug therapy.

Under the authority of the Regulations, the Standards of Practice – Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists establish the clear accountabilities and responsibilities of pharmacists with respect to the prescribing of drugs. Pharmacists will undertake the prescribing of drugs in accordance with these Standards of Practice as well as existing legislation, regulations, the Code of Ethics, agreements, other standards of practice and policy directives relevant to pharmacy practice in Nova Scotia.

The Standards of Practice document includes the following:

- Definitions – glossary of terms referenced in the standards,
- General Standards of Practice – overall requirements and expectations for pharmacists when prescribing,
- Additional Standards of Practice – specific requirements for each type of prescribing activity, and
- Appendices – supporting tools and documents.

Original approval: January 2011
## 2 DEFINITIONS

Definitions for terms represented in the *Standards of Practice – Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists* are provided in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Prescription</td>
<td>A prescription that is not over one year old and has not been dispensed, has refills remaining or has an unused portion of a dispensed prescription remaining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor and Common Ailments</td>
<td>Health conditions that can be managed with minimal treatment and/or self-care strategies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Prescriber</td>
<td>Refers to the prescriber who authorized the original prescription.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Prescription</td>
<td>Refers to the first fill of a prescription, which may or may not be for a new drug therapy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>For the purpose of these Standards, each reference to the patient means <em>the patient or their agent</em> as defined by the Pharmacy Act of 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provincial DIS</td>
<td>An interoperable system that enables authorized health care providers to access, manage, share and safeguard patient’s medication histories. It is a key component of the provincial electronic health record (EHR).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulated Health Care Professional</td>
<td>An individual who is licensed to provide specific health care services to patients, including but not limited to, dentists, midwives, nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, and physicians.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule I Drugs</td>
<td>Drug Schedules Regulations under the Pharmacy Act define Schedule I as the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The drugs and medicines in this Schedule are the drugs listed from time to time in Schedule I of the National Drug Schedules, which are part of Canada’s National Drug Scheduling System published by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities, as that Schedule is from time to time amended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The drugs and medicines in this Schedule require a prescription as a condition of sale other than drugs listed in Part II of Schedule F of the Food and Drug Regulations (Canada) that are not in a form suitable for use by a human or for which the main product panel of both the inner label and the outer label clearly indicate that the drug is for veterinary use only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The drugs and medicines in this Schedule, which are listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) and its Regulations, must be sold in accordance with the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) and its...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulations, and the standards of practice from time to time approved by Council. The drugs and medicines in this Schedule, which are not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) and its Regulations, must be sold in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act (Canada) and its Regulations, and the standards of practice from time to time approved by Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule II Drugs</td>
<td>Drug Schedules Regulations under the Pharmacy Act define Schedule II as the following: The drugs and medicines in this Schedule are the drugs listed from time to time in Schedule II of the National Drug Schedules, which are part of Canada’s National Drug Scheduling System published by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities, as that Schedule is from time to time amended. The drugs and medicines listed in this Schedule do not require a prescription as a condition of sale, but are only available from a pharmacist or a certified dispenser and must be kept within an area of the pharmacy to which there is no public access and no opportunity for self-selection. The direct involvement and professional intervention from a pharmacist or certified dispenser is required prior to the release of the drug to the patient or the patient’s agent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule III Drugs</td>
<td>Drug Schedules Regulations under the Pharmacy Act define Schedule III as the following: The drugs and medicines in this Schedule are the drugs listed from time to time in Schedule III of the National Drug Schedules, which are part of Canada’s National Drug Scheduling System published by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities, as that Schedule is from time to time amended. The drugs and medicines listed in this Schedule do not require a prescription as a condition of sale, but are sold from the self-selection area of the pharmacy maintained under the personal supervision of a pharmacist or certified dispenser. A pharmacist or certified dispenser must be available to assist the patient in making an appropriate self-medication selection.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 GENERAL STANDARDS OF PRACTICE - PHARMACIST PRESCRIBING

The general Standards of Practice represent overall requirements for pharmacist prescribing. For reference, a Prescribing Decision Framework is provided in Appendix A. This framework provides a decision-making tool representing the key elements of these standards of practice to help a pharmacist determine whether or not to proceed with prescribing for a patient.

3.1 FOCUS ON HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF PATIENT

3.1.1 A pharmacist’s decision to prescribe shall be in the best interest of the patient’s health and safety; evidence informed; and focused on optimizing health outcomes for the patient.

3.1.2 A pharmacist shall prescribe the most appropriate drug considering the patient’s symptoms, medical history, health status, allergies/intolerances and safety considerations. In addition, a pharmacist shall consider the patient’s personal circumstances, practical needs, values and preferences, where applicable.

3.1.3 A pharmacist shall involve the patient in the prescribing process and decisions within a shared decision making environment.

3.2 UNDERSTAND AND TAKE ACCOUNTABILITY

3.2.1 A pharmacist shall recognize and accept legal accountability for their prescribing decision, including actions and omissions, and for the benefits and risks to the patient resulting from the prescribed drug. A pharmacist cannot delegate this accountability to another individual.

3.2.2 A pharmacist shall not prescribe when the prescribing decision process indicates that there is insufficient information or added risks to the patient to provide a prescription.

3.2.3 A pharmacist shall recognize and accept responsibility for the impact of their prescribing activities on the overall costs and sustainability of the health care system.
3.3 USE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

3.3.1 A pharmacist shall comply with the Standards of Practice – Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists as well as existing legislation, regulations, the Code of Ethics, agreements, other standards of practice and policy directives relevant to pharmacy practice in Nova Scotia (refer to Appendix B for a list of reference documents). A pharmacist may only undertake the prescribing of drugs in specific circumstances to carry out:

- prescribing for conditions approved by Council,
- prescribing in an emergency,
- prescription renewal,
- prescription adaptation,
- therapeutic substitution, or
- prescribing of Schedule II and III drugs.

In addition to the circumstances listed above, in accordance with NSCP policy, a pharmacist may prescribe in a practice setting considered and approved by Council on a case-by-case basis (e.g. a hospital, home for special care or multidisciplinary environment where collaborative relationships or appropriate protocols have been established).

3.3.2 A pharmacist shall only undertake the prescribing of drugs in accordance with:

- the pharmacist’s scope of practice, and
- the knowledge, skills, competencies and experience of the pharmacist.

The onus is on the pharmacist to judge whether or not the specific circumstances of each potential instance of prescribing are in accordance with their scope of practice, knowledge, skills, competencies and experience.

3.3.3 A pharmacist shall have the appropriate knowledge and understanding of the following:

- patient (e.g. his/her symptoms, medical history, health status, allergies/intolerances and safety considerations; and, where applicable, consider his/her personal circumstances, practical needs, values and preferences),
- condition being treated and
- drug being prescribed.

Accordingly, a pharmacist shall undertake a patient assessment applicable to the situation to support the prescribing decision and select a drug appropriate for the condition. A pharmacist shall be satisfied that the intended use of the prescribed drug reflects an indication approved by
Health Canada. Otherwise, the pharmacist shall be satisfied that the intended use of the prescribed drug is:

- widely accepted as best practice in Canada and supported by extensive medical literature demonstrating safety and efficacy; or
- consistent with a research protocol in which the patient is enrolled.

3.3.4 Where equipment is required to conduct a patient assessment, a pharmacist shall ensure that:

- the equipment is appropriate for its intended use and properly maintained, and
- the equipment is operated by an individual who is competent and trained to use the equipment.

3.3.5 A pharmacist shall use professional judgment to determine the appropriateness of their knowledge and understanding to prescribe in a specific situation, considering whether or not:

- sufficient information, including benefits and risks, is available such that assumptions are not required,
- the decision to prescribe can be justified,
- the decision will withstand a test of reasonableness, i.e. other pharmacists would make the same decision in this situation, and
- the pharmacist can accept responsibility for the decision.

3.3.6 Where applicable, a pharmacist shall take appropriate steps to understand why another prescriber has declined to provide a prescription and use his/her professional judgment to determine whether or not to provide the prescription.

3.3.7 A pharmacist shall maintain current certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid as required qualifications for prescribing drugs (refer to Appendix C for specific information regarding First Aid and CPR certification requirements).

3.4 COLLABORATE WITH OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

3.4.1 A pharmacist prescribing a drug shall collaborate and consult with other pharmacists, the patient’s primary health care provider, the original prescriber (if applicable and different from the primary health care provider) and other health care professionals when practical and where it is beneficial to serve the best interest of the patient (e.g. prescribing decisions, monitoring / follow-up, etc.).
3.4.2 A pharmacist shall recommend that the patient seek the care of another appropriately qualified regulated health care professional when:

- the pharmacist does not have the knowledge, skills, competencies and experience necessary to address the patient’s needs,
- the condition of the patient cannot be effectively treated within the scope of practice of the pharmacist,
- the patient’s condition has not responded to drug therapy or other therapy within the pharmacist’s scope of practice, or
- the patient’s needs are better addressed by another health care professional who can be accessed in a timely manner.

3.4.3 In addition to providing a prescription, a pharmacist shall recommend that the patient seek the care of another health care professional for additional care, as appropriate for the situation.

### 3.5 Maintain Professional Independence

3.5.1 A pharmacist shall neither prescribe under conditions that compromise the pharmacist’s professional independence, judgment or integrity, nor impose such conditions on other pharmacists or health care professionals.

3.5.2 When prescribing, a pharmacist shall avoid the following situations when those situations present a conflict of interest that compromises the pharmacist’s professional independence, judgment or integrity:

- accepting gifts, inducements or other benefits from a patient, other health care professional, pharmaceutical manufacturer, supplier or other organization/person, or
- forming an association with a patient, other health care professional, pharmaceutical manufacturer, supplier or other organization/person.

3.5.3 A pharmacist shall not prescribe for themselves, a family member or anyone with whom the pharmacist has a close personal relationship, except in extraordinary circumstances when:

- no other prescriber is available and
- drug treatment is required to save a life or avoid serious deterioration to the patient’s health.

When prescribing in an extraordinary situation, a pharmacist shall document the relationship to the patient and the exceptional circumstances and no fee shall be charged for the prescribing service.
3.5.4 A pharmacist’s decision to prescribe and the choice of drug shall be based on clinical suitability, cost effectiveness and what is in the best interest of the patient and not on the demands of the patient. Prescribing decisions based on bias-oriented information or on providing financial advantage to the pharmacist and/or pharmacy without providing benefit to the patient may be regarded as professional misconduct.

3.5.5 When a pharmacist proceeds to both prescribe and dispense a drug, the pharmacist shall:

- inform the patient about the benefits of another pharmacist or health care professional reviewing the appropriateness of the prescription;
- obtain the patient’s consent for the pharmacist to dispense the drug which he/she prescribed; and
- document the patient’s consent on the prescription record.

Refer to Appendix D for further information regarding patient consent requirements.

### 3.6 Enable Informed Decisions

3.6.1 A pharmacist shall provide the patient or patient’s agent with information, benefits and risks that are understandable and sufficient to allow him/her to make an informed decision to accept or decline the pharmacist prescribing. To support his/her decision, the pharmacist shall provide the opportunity for the patient or patient’s agent to ask questions and obtain responses about the pharmacist prescribing process.

3.6.2 The pharmacist shall be satisfied that the patient or the patient’s agent, if applicable, has sufficient information and understanding to participate in the prescribing process and decision making.

3.6.3 In order to support pharmacist prescribing, the pharmacist shall obtain informed and voluntary consent for the prescribing service being provided, including the following:

- consent for the pharmacist to undertake the prescribing process, including the associated assessment, where applicable, as well as the pharmacist’s prescribing decision (supported by discussing the proposed prescription, any use of the drug for an indication beyond those approved by Health Canada, therapeutic options, benefits, risks and any other factors specific to the patient’s circumstances), and
- consent for the pharmacist to communicate the prescription decision and details as well as any follow-up results (if applicable) to other appropriate health care professionals (e.g. primary health care provider).
3.6.4 A pharmacist shall obtain informed and voluntary consent from the patient or the patient’s agent (i.e. substitute decision maker) and disclose patient information in accordance with applicable legislative requirements (refer to Appendix D for Patient Consent and Disclosure Requirements).

3.6.5 When a patient is represented by an agent, a pharmacist shall apply the standards for the relationship with the patient to the relationship with the agent, as appropriate.

3.6.6 The pharmacist shall deal directly with the patient except when:

- it is considered appropriate and in the patient’s best interest to deal with the patient’s agent, or
- the pharmacist deals with a regulated health care professional who is providing personal and/or supervisory care to the patient (provided the patient or patient’s agent has given consent to do so).

3.7 Complete Monitoring

3.7.1 A pharmacist shall establish an appropriate follow-up plan, which specifies the therapeutic goal(s) to be monitored. For each goal, the follow-up plan includes the following (as applicable):

- description of the therapeutic goal,
- monitoring process (i.e. how the monitoring will be conducted, e.g. patient call back),
- date for follow-up,
- individual responsible for follow-up, and
- monitoring results and date (once completed), including documentation of any subsequent follow-up requirements.

3.7.2 A pharmacist shall complete any subsequent monitoring regarding the prescribed drug in compliance with the established follow-up plan and, as a result, shall undertake any appropriate actions. If required, the pharmacist may arrange for another pharmacist or other regulated health care professional to accept accountability and responsibility for relevant monitoring activities as identified in the follow-up plan.
3.8 COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

3.8.1 The pharmacist shall communicate directly with the patient or their agent about the patient assessment details / findings, prescribing decision, associated rationale, follow-up plan and any notification that will be provided to other health care professionals.

3.8.2 In support of continuity of patient care and collaborative care, the pharmacist shall complete the appropriate communication regarding the prescribing activities for a patient (e.g. patient’s presenting health condition or drug related problem, patient assessment details / findings, prescribing decision, associated details and rationale, supporting information, e.g. instructions to patient, follow-up plan / responsibilities and, when appropriate, details of subsequent monitoring) to the following:

- other professional staff in the pharmacy,
- the patient’s primary health care provider,
- the original prescriber (if different from the primary health care provider), and/or
- the appropriate health care professionals.

The pharmacist shall communicate, in writing, the required information using the established procedural framework and form within 24 hours or as soon as possible thereafter (refer to Appendix E – Communication Process and Notification Forms).

For specific communication requirements regarding prescription adaptation for a drug formulation change, refer to Standard 7.4.

3.8.3 The pharmacist shall conduct prescribing related communications with a patient or other health care professionals regarding assessment, follow-up, patient counseling and personal/sensitive information or other matters in accordance with the patient’s wishes, in a manner that respects patient confidentiality. This includes:

- conducting patient communications in a separate counseling room providing visual and sound barriers for privacy and a comfortable environment for the patient to share information, and
- adhering to any applicable privacy legislation.

3.8.4 The pharmacist shall notify the patient as soon as possible if any information related to pharmacist prescribing is accessed without authorization, lost or stolen, or if there is potential for harm or embarrassment to the patient.
3.9 Complete Documentation

3.9.1 The pharmacist shall document the prescribing process in order to maintain an accurate record of the circumstances and prescription details including:

- New written prescription with all required details and signed by the prescribing pharmacist. Details will include a reference to the original prescription, where applicable (i.e. prescription adaptation, therapeutic substitution and prescription renewal),
- Patient’s presenting health condition or drug related problem,
- Patient assessment details / findings (the extent to which it is applicable and pertinent to the prescribing circumstances, e.g. these details may not apply to all prescription adaptations, renewals or therapeutic substitutions),
- Prescribing decision, rationale and any supporting information (e.g. patient history, instructions to the patient, etc). Note that the format for documenting this information may follow SOAP (subjective, objective, assessment, plan), DARP (data, action, response, plan) or similar approach. Where applicable, file any supporting information (e.g. laboratory report, previous prescription label, written documentation of diagnosis from health care professional requesting pharmacist to select and prescribe appropriate drug therapy, etc.) with the prescribing documentation,
- Follow-up plan that is sufficiently detailed for other health care professionals or caregivers to monitor the patient’s progress (refer to standard 3.7.1 for details to be included in the follow-up plan).
- Any additional information that is necessary for other professional staff in the pharmacy to provide continuity of care.
- Date and method of notifying original prescriber and/or any other health care professionals, as appropriate.
- Acknowledgement of informed and voluntary consent in accordance with applicable legislative requirements (refer to Appendix D for Patient Consent and Disclosure Requirements).
- Where applicable, clear reference to the original prescription including the prescriber name and contact details on both the patient’s record and the new prescription. In cases where the original prescription from another prescriber is adapted or substituted with a therapeutic equivalent, the original and new prescriptions are filed together.
3.9.2 The pharmacist shall create and maintain documentation of the prescribing process that is:

- Identification of prescribing pharmacist.
- Details of subsequent monitoring and follow-up, where appropriate.

- Accurate, concise, legible, complete and organized. (Any abbreviations used shall be clear and well-known to all health care professionals.)
- Completed in a timely manner concurrent with the process and in a manner that facilitates use, sharing and ready retrieval by authorized individuals.
- Recorded using an electronic and/or paper based system. If both are being used, the electronic record shall identify and reference the paper record.
- Recorded, as required, in the provincial DIS.
- Documented so that it cannot be deleted. Any corrections or adjustments are noted, tracked and include the identity of the individual who completed the change. Recorded, stored and destroyed in a manner to maintain patient confidentiality and protect against the theft, loss and unauthorized use, disclosure, copying, modification or destruction.

For further details regarding documentation, refer to Appendix F – Documentation Requirements.
4 PRESCRIBING FOR CONDITIONS APPROVED BY COUNCIL - ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

In addition to the General Standards of Practice for Pharmacist Prescribing (detailed in Section 3 of this document), the following standards apply to prescribing by a pharmacist for conditions approved by Council.

4.1 A pharmacist shall only undertake prescribing for a condition approved by Council when the drug is:

- listed in Schedule I, II or III, pursuant to the Drug Schedules Regulations of the Nova Scotia Pharmacy Act, and is not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. pharmacists cannot prescribe narcotics, controlled drugs, exempted codeine products (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepines or other targeted substances,
- prescribed to treat a condition, which is approved by NSCP Council (refer to Appendix G for a schedule of conditions approved by Council) and is within the pharmacist’s scope of practice, knowledge, skills, competencies and experience, and
- prescribed for an intended use that reflects an indication approved by Health Canada. Otherwise, prescribed for an intended use which is:
  - widely accepted as best practice in Canada and supported by extensive medical literature demonstrating safety and efficacy; or
  - consistent with a research protocol in which the patient is enrolled.

4.2 A pharmacist who undertakes prescribing for a condition approved by Council shall see and assess the patient in person at the time of prescribing. Alternatively, the pharmacist can use their professional judgment and choose to undertake prescribing for an approved condition when all of the following circumstances exist:

- the pharmacist has seen the patient personally in the past and has an established professional relationship with the patient,
- the pharmacist has previously seen and assessed the patient for the condition or the pharmacist has knowledge of the assessment of the patient’s condition by another health care professional (who is legally authorized to diagnose and prescribe and has seen the patient) and the assessment remains current,
the pharmacist has sufficient knowledge of the patient’s condition and current clinical status relevant to the prescribing decision, and

the pharmacist communicates with the patient or their agent at the time of prescribing.

4.3 A pharmacist conducting a patient assessment to support prescribing for a condition approved by Council in accordance with the pharmacist’s scope of practice, knowledge, skills, competencies and experience shall consider the patient’s:

- demographic information,
- physical characteristics, condition and measurements (e.g. weight, height, etc.),
- presenting health condition or drug related problem including its symptoms, signs, history and any treatment,
- date, extent and results of last assessment of the condition, if applicable,
- laboratory or other diagnostic test results,
- objective and subjective findings,
- diagnosis (if available),
- medical history,
- family medical history,
- current medical conditions, medications, non-medication therapies, health care products / devices and treatments,
- allergies and intolerances to drugs, excipients or other substances relevant to drug therapy,
- pregnancy and lactation status,
- risk factors,
- other health care professionals and caregivers involved in providing treatment/care,
- personal circumstances, practical needs, values and preferences, where applicable, and
- other information relevant to the assessment.

In conjunction with the patient assessment, the pharmacist may, with appropriate patient consent, obtain pertinent information from family, friends, caregivers or other health care providers.
5 PRESCRIBING IN AN EMERGENCY - ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

In addition to the General Standards of Practice for Pharmacist Prescribing (detailed in Section 3 of this document), the following standards apply to pharmacist prescribing in an emergency.

5.1 A pharmacist may undertake prescribing to provide a new medication or replace a supply, or portion of a supply, of an existing medication in an emergency when the pharmacist determines through obtaining information from the patient and other appropriate sources that:

- the patient has an immediate, urgent and high-risk medical requirement for the drug in order to avoid significant deterioration to his/her health,
- the patient’s needs cannot be better addressed by their primary health care provider or other health care professional within a timeframe that does not place them at increased risk, and
- the patient is expected to obtain therapeutic benefit from the prescribed drug and the therapeutic benefit is expected to outweigh the risks of the prescribed drug.

5.2 A pharmacist shall only provide a prescription in an emergency that is:

- for a drug listed in Schedule I, II or III, pursuant to the Drug Schedules Regulations of the Nova Scotia Pharmacy Act, and is not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. pharmacists cannot prescribe narcotics, controlled drugs, exempted codeine products (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepines or other targeted substances,
- for a limited and interim supply of the drug necessary to address the immediate risk to the patient’s health/life and to provide sufficient time for the patient to see their primary health care provider or other health care professional, and
- prescribed for an intended use that reflects an indication approved by Health Canada. Otherwise, prescribed for an intended use which is:
  - widely accepted as best practice in Canada and supported by extensive medical literature demonstrating safety and efficacy; or
  - consistent with a research protocol in which the patient is enrolled.
5.3 A pharmacist who undertakes prescribing in an emergency shall see and assess the patient in person at the time of prescribing. Alternatively, the pharmacist can use their professional judgment and choose to undertake prescribing in an emergency when all of the following circumstances exist:

- the pharmacist has seen the patient personally in the past and has an established professional relationship with the patient,
- the pharmacist has knowledge of the patient’s condition and current clinical status relevant to the prescribing decision, and
- the pharmacist communicates with the patient or their agent at the time of prescribing.

5.4 A pharmacist conducting a patient assessment to support prescribing in an emergency and in accordance with the pharmacist’s scope of practice, knowledge, skills, competencies and experience shall consider the patient’s:

- demographic information,
- physical characteristics, condition and measurements (e.g. weight, height, etc.),
- presenting health emergency (e.g. urgent drug related problem) including its symptoms, signs, history and any current/past treatment,
- date, extent and results of last assessment of the presenting condition, if applicable,
- laboratory or other diagnostic test results, if available,
- subjective and objective findings,
- diagnosis (if available),
- medical history,
- family medical history,
- current medical conditions, medications, non-medication therapies, health care products / devices and treatments,
- allergies and intolerances to drugs, excipients or other substances relevant to drug therapy,
- pregnancy and lactation status,
- risk factors,
- other health care professionals and caregivers involved in providing treatment/care,
- personal circumstances, practical needs, values and preferences, where applicable, and
- other information relevant to the assessment.

In conjunction with the patient assessment, the pharmacist may, with appropriate patient consent, obtain pertinent information from family, friends, caregivers or other health care providers.
6 PRESCRIPTION RENEWAL - ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

In addition to the General Standards of Practice for Pharmacist Prescribing (detailed in Section 3 of this document), the following standards apply to pharmacist prescribing to renew a prescription.

6.1 A pharmacist shall only undertake prescribing to renew a prescription that is:

- an original prescription from their pharmacy that has not been previously renewed by a pharmacist or transferred to another pharmacy;
- for a drug listed in Schedule I, II or III, pursuant to the Drug Schedules Regulations of the Nova Scotia Pharmacy Act, and is not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. pharmacists cannot prescribe narcotics, controlled drugs, exempted codeine products (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepines or other targeted substances;
- providing drug therapy for a chronic or long-term condition, which is stabilized; and
- prescribed for an intended use that reflects an indication approved by Health Canada. Otherwise, prescribed for an intended use which is:
  - widely accepted as best practice in Canada and supported by extensive medical literature demonstrating safety and efficacy, or
  - consistent with a research protocol in which the patient is enrolled.

When a potential prescription renewal situation is encountered and the original prescription is not from their pharmacy or has been transferred to another pharmacy, a pharmacist may:

(i) Contact the pharmacy with the original or transferred prescription to determine if the pharmacist at that pharmacy, in accordance with standard 6.2, will prescribe the renewal for dispensing at your pharmacy.

or

(ii) If the situation fits the conditions set out in Standard 5. Prescribing in an Emergency – Additional Standards, consider prescribing under this provision.

6.2 A pharmacist who undertakes prescribing to renew a prescription shall be satisfied that:

- the renewal is for the same drug, dosage, formulation and regimen (a pharmacist shall not adapt the dose, formulation or regimen or complete therapeutic substitution when prescribing to renew a prescription unless, at that time, the manufacturer cannot supply the drug to be renewed),
- continued drug therapy is warranted to maintain or enhance patient care and can be extended without the patient seeing the original prescriber,
- the prior assessment of the patient’s condition supporting the drug therapy is still relevant,
- there is no indication that the original prescriber would not renew the prescription,
- the patient is expected to obtain therapeutic benefit from renewing the drug and the therapeutic benefit is expected to outweigh the risks of renewing the drug,
• the patient has a stable history on the medication and the drug dosage, formulation and regimen are appropriate and unchanged,
• there are no existing known problems with the drug to be renewed (e.g. drug interactions, adverse effects or contraindications),
• the patient’s condition and treatment with the drug are being monitored appropriately, and
• the prescription renewal, including any assigned refills, is estimated to provide a duration of therapy of no more than 90 days.
7 PRESCRIPTION ADAPTATION - ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

In addition to the General Standards of Practice for Pharmacist Prescribing (detailed in Section 3 of this document), the following standards apply to adaptation of a prescription by a pharmacist.

7.1 When prescribing to adapt a prescription from another prescriber, a pharmacist may modify:

- the dose of the drug,
- the formulation of the drug,
- the regimen of the drug, and/or
- the duration of the drug therapy.

7.2 A pharmacist shall only adapt a prescription that is:

- current (see Definitions),
- authentic, and
- for a drug listed in Schedule I, II or III, pursuant to the Drug Schedules Regulations of the Nova Scotia Pharmacy Act, and is not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. pharmacists cannot prescribe narcotics, controlled drugs, exempted codeine products (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepines or other targeted substances.

7.3 A pharmacist who adapts a prescription shall assess the patient and specific circumstances, as appropriate, to be satisfied that:

- the drug in the adapted prescription is being prescribed for an intended use that reflects an indication approved by Health Canada. Otherwise, the drug is being prescribed for an intended use which is:
  - widely accepted as best practice in Canada and supported by extensive medical literature demonstrating safety and efficacy, or
  - consistent with a research protocol in which the patient is enrolled; and

- the adapted prescription will maintain or enhance the effectiveness of the drug therapy or improve adherence and is not expected to introduce any problems or additional risks to the patient.

7.3.1 A pharmacist may adapt a prescription’s dose of the drug when:

- the drug strength prescribed is not commercially available,
• the dose of the drug is missing from the prescription and sufficient information about the drug therapy can be obtained from the patient, patient record or other sources to determine the appropriate dose,
• a patient-specific factor (e.g. age, weight, organ function, other medical conditions / medications, etc.) requires the dose to be adjusted, or
• in the pharmacist’s professional judgment, the circumstances indicate a different dose will be clinically beneficial to the patient.

7.3.2 A pharmacist may adapt a prescription’s **formulation or regimen** when:
• the formulation prescribed is not commercially available,
• the formulation or regimen is missing from the prescription and sufficient information about the drug therapy can be obtained from the patient, patient record or other sources to determine the appropriate formulation or regimen,
• an adjustment in the formulation or regimen will enhance the ability of the patient to take the medication more effectively, or
• in the pharmacist’s professional judgment, the circumstances indicate a different formulation or regimen will be clinically beneficial to the patient.

7.3.3 A pharmacist may adapt a prescription’s **duration of drug therapy** when:
• the duration of therapy is missing from the prescription and sufficient information about the drug therapy can be obtained from the patient, patient record or other sources to determine the appropriate duration, or
• in the pharmacist’s professional judgment, the circumstances indicate a different duration of therapy will be clinically beneficial to the patient.

7.4 In accordance with general standard 3.8 regarding effective communication, a pharmacist shall advise the original prescriber about the prescription adaptation except when the formulation of the prescribed drug is changed, unless:
• the formulation change necessitates a modification to the drug dose or regimen; or
• the pharmacist determines, based on his/her professional judgment, that communication of the formulation change is warranted.
8 THERAPEUTIC SUBSTITUTION - ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

In addition to the General Standards of Practice for Pharmacist Prescribing (detailed in Section 3 of this document), the following standards apply to pharmacist prescribing when substituting the prescribed drug with a different drug that has an equivalent therapeutic effect.

8.1 A pharmacist shall only undertake prescribing for therapeutic substitution to replace a prescription that is:

- current (see Definitions),
- authentic, and
- for a drug listed in Schedule I, II or III, pursuant to the Drug Schedules Regulations of the Nova Scotia Pharmacy Act, and is not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. pharmacists cannot prescribe narcotics, controlled drugs, exempted codeine products (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepines or other targeted substances.

8.2 A pharmacist who undertakes prescribing to substitute a prescribed drug with a different drug that has an equivalent therapeutic effect shall assess the patient and specific circumstances, as appropriate, to be satisfied that:

- the substituted drug, dose and regimen will have an equivalent therapeutic effect based on indications approved by Health Canada or based on an intended use which is:
  - widely accepted as best practice in Canada and supported by extensive medical literature demonstrating safety and efficacy, or
  - consistent with a research protocol in which the patient is enrolled;

- sufficient knowledge and understanding have been obtained regarding the patient (e.g. his/her symptoms, medical history, health status, allergies/intolerances and safety considerations; and, where applicable, consider his/her personal circumstances, practical needs, values and preferences), condition being treated, patient-specific circumstances and drug selection criteria in order that the therapeutic substitution supports the original therapeutic goal;
- the therapeutic substitution will maintain / enhance the effectiveness of the drug therapy or improve adherence and is not expected to introduce any problems or additional risks to the patient; and

Dispensing a
generic
substitute or
interchangeable
drug product is
not therapeutic
substitution prescribing.

Note that if a
prescription is
transferred to
another
pharmacy, it
cannot be
therapeutically
substituted by
the pharmacy
from where it
was transferred
as it is no longer
considered a
current
prescription in
that pharmacy.

As referenced in
standard 3.5.4,
prescribing
decisions based
on providing
financial
advantage to the
pharmacist or
pharmacy in
preference of
benefit to the
patient may be
regarded as
professional
misconduct.
• the therapeutic substitution drug selection supports the patient’s best interest with respect to financial, formulary or payer considerations.

8.3 When prescribing for the purposes of therapeutic substitution:

• a pharmacist shall not extend the prescription beyond the period when the original prescription and any refills would have finished or beyond one year from the original prescription date, whichever is sooner, and

• in the case of a prescription for drug therapy associated with a defined treatment period (e.g., antibiotic), a pharmacist who prescribes a therapeutic substitute may do so for an equivalent treatment period (e.g. for the standards course of treatment for the alternative antibiotic).
9  PRESCRIBING OF SCHEDULE II AND III DRUGS - ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

In addition to the General Standards of Practice for Pharmacist Prescribing (detailed in Section 3 of this document), the following standards apply to pharmacist prescribing of Schedule II and III drugs.

9.1 A pharmacist shall only undertake prescribing of a Schedule II or III drug that is prescribed for an intended use that reflects an indication approved by Health Canada. Otherwise, prescribed for an intended use which is:

- widely accepted as best practice in Canada and supported by extensive medical literature demonstrating safety and efficacy; or
- consistent with a research protocol in which the patient is enrolled.

9.2 A pharmacist who undertakes prescribing of a Schedule II or III drug shall see and assess the patient in person at the time of prescribing. Alternatively, the pharmacist can use their professional judgment and choose to undertake prescribing for a Schedule II or III drug when all of the following circumstances exist:

- the pharmacist has seen the patient personally in the past and has an established professional relationship with the patient,
- the pharmacist has previously seen and assessed the patient for the condition or the pharmacist has knowledge of the assessment of the patient’s condition by another health care professional (who is legally authorized to diagnose and prescribe and has seen the patient) and the assessment remains current,
- the pharmacist has knowledge of the patient’s condition and current clinical status relevant to the prescribing decision, and
- the pharmacist communicates with the patient or their agent at the time of prescribing.

9.3 A pharmacist conducting a patient assessment to support prescribing for a condition and in accordance with the pharmacist’s scope of practice, knowledge, skills, competencies and experience shall consider the patient’s:

- demographic information,
- physical characteristics, condition and measurements (e.g. weight, height, etc.),
• presenting health condition or drug related problem including its symptoms, signs, history and any treatment,
• date, extent and results of last assessment of the condition, if applicable,
• laboratory or other diagnostic test results,
• objective and subjective findings,
• diagnosis (if available),
• medical history,
• family medical history
• current medical conditions, medications, non-medication therapies, health care products / devices and treatments,
• allergies and intolerances to drugs, excipients or other substances relevant to drug therapy,
• pregnancy and lactation status,
• risk factors,
• other health care professionals and caregivers involved in providing treatment/care,
• personal circumstances, practical needs, values and preferences, where applicable, and
• other information relevant to the assessment.

In conjunction with the patient assessment, the pharmacist may, with appropriate patient consent, obtain pertinent information from family, friends, caregivers or other health care providers.
APPENDIX A - PRESCRIBING DECISION FRAMEWORK

The following framework provides a decision-making tool representing the key elements of the Standards of Practice – Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists. This framework can be used by the pharmacist to help determine whether or not to proceed with prescribing a drug for a patient. It includes general considerations, which apply to all pharmacist prescribing, as well as considerations for each specific category of pharmacist prescribing. The framework provides an overall guideline for pharmacists but does not attempt to represent all aspects of the standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 3 General Standards of Practice</th>
<th>Decision to Prescribe Considerations</th>
<th>Standard Reference #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the decision to prescribe what is in the best interest of the patient’s health and safety, evidence informed and focused on optimizing health outcomes for the patient?</td>
<td>3.1.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Do I have sufficient information, knowledge and understanding about the patient to undertake prescribing, including his/her:  
  - symptoms,  
  - medical history,  
  - health status,  
  - allergies/intolerances, and  
  - safety considerations?  
  In addition, are there other factors to consider, where applicable, including his/her:  
  - personal circumstances,  
  - practical needs,  
  - values, and  
  - preferences? | 3.1.2 |
<p>| Am I willing to accept legal accountability for my prescribing decision in this instance and for the benefits and risks to the patient resulting from the prescribed drug? | 3.2.1 |
| Is the prescribing to be undertaken in this instance within my scope of practice, knowledge, skills, competencies and experience? | 3.3.2 |
| Do I have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the condition being treated to undertake prescribing in this instance? | 3.3.3 |
| Do I have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the drug being prescribed to undertake prescribing in this instance? Does the intended use of the drug reflect an indication approved by Health Canada? Or is the intended use either widely accepted as best practice in Canada and supported by extensive medical literature demonstrating safety and efficacy or consistent with a research protocol in which the patient is enrolled? | 3.3.3 |
| Where applicable, have I taken appropriate steps to understand why another prescriber declined to provide the prescription and have I used my professional judgment to determine whether or not to provide the prescription? | 3.3.6 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 3</th>
<th>General Standards of Practice</th>
<th>Decision to Prescribe Considerations</th>
<th>Standard Reference #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Have I obtained information from and consulted with others when practical and in the best interest of the patient (e.g. primary health care provider, original prescriber, other health care professionals)?</td>
<td>3.4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Is my prescribing decision free from situations, arrangements or associations that create a conflict of interest or compromise my professional independence, judgment or integrity?</td>
<td>3.5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Is my decision to prescribe and choice of drug based on clinical suitability, cost effectiveness and what is in the best interest of the patient?</td>
<td>3.5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Have I provided sufficient information to the patient or their agent and involved them in the prescribing process and decision making?</td>
<td>3.6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Do I have informed and voluntary consent to prescribe a drug for the patient and complete the associated communication?</td>
<td>3.6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Am I willing to complete the necessary monitoring / follow-up, communication and documentation associated with providing a prescription?</td>
<td>3.7, 3.8, 3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 4</th>
<th>Prescribing for Conditions Approved by Council (Minor and Common Ailments &amp; Collaborative Prescribing)</th>
<th>Decision to Prescribe Considerations</th>
<th>Standard Reference #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Is the drug being prescribed not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. not a narcotic, controlled drug, exempted codeine product (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepine or other targeted substance?</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Is the drug being prescribed for a condition which is approved by NSCP Council (refer to Appendix G) and is within my scope of practice, knowledge, skills, competencies and experience?</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Have I seen and assessed the patient? (Refer to standard 4.3 for assessment specifics.)</td>
<td>4.2, 4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 4
Prescribing for Conditions Approved by Council
(Minor and Common Ailments & Collaborative Prescribing)

**Decision to Prescribe Considerations**

When I have not seen and assessed the patient, then am I using my professional judgment and choosing to undertake prescribing in this instance based on having achieved all of the following circumstances?

- I have seen the patient personally in the past and have an established professional relationship with the patient;
- I have previously seen and assessed the patient for the condition or have knowledge of the assessment of the patient’s condition by another health care professional (who is legally authorized to diagnose and prescribe and has seen the patient) and that assessment remains current;
- I have knowledge of the patient’s condition and current clinical status relevant to the prescribing decision; and
- I communicated with the patient or their agent regarding the prescribing process and decision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Reference #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 5
Prescribing in an Emergency

**Decision to Prescribe Considerations**

Is the drug being prescribed because:

- the patient has an immediate, urgent and high-risk medical requirement for the drug in order to avoid a significant deterioration to his/her health,
- the patient’s needs are not better addressed by their primary health care provider or other health care professional within a timeframe that does not place them at increased risk, and
- the patient is expected to obtain therapeutic benefit from the prescribed drug and the therapeutic benefit is expected to outweigh the risks of the prescribed drug?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is the drug being prescribed not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. not a narcotic, controlled drug, exempted codeine product (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepine or other targeted substance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is the emergency prescription for a limited or interim supply of the drug necessary to address the immediate risk to the patient’s health/life and to provide sufficient time for the patient to see their primary health care provider or other health care professional?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have I seen and assessed the patient? (Refer to standard 5.4 for assessment specifics.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.3, 5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Section 5
Prescribing in an Emergency

**Decision to Prescribe Considerations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When I have not seen and assessed the patient, then am I using my professional judgment and choosing to undertake prescribing in this instance based on having achieved all of the following circumstances?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ I have seen the patient personally in the past and have an established professional relationship with the patient;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ I have knowledge of the patient’s condition and current clinical status relevant to the prescribing decision; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ I communicated with the patient or their agent regarding the prescribing process and decision.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Standard Reference #**

5.3

---

### Section 6
Prescription Renewal

**Decision to Prescribe Considerations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the prescription renewal meet the following criteria:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Being prescribed to renew an original prescription from my pharmacy that has not been previously renewed by a pharmacist or transferred to another pharmacy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ For a drug not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. not a narcotic, controlled drug, exempted codeine product (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepine or other targeted substance?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Providing drug therapy for a chronic or long-term condition, which is stabilized?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With respect to the prescription renewal, am I satisfied that:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ The renewal is for the same drug, dosage, formulation and regimen? (Unless I need to adapt the dose, formulation or regimen or complete therapeutic substitution because the manufacturer cannot supply the drug to be renewed at this time.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Continued drug therapy is warranted to maintain or enhance patient care and can be extended without the patient seeing the original prescriber?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ The prior assessment of the patient’s condition supporting the drug therapy is still relevant?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ There is no indication that the original prescriber would not renew the prescription?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ The patient is expected to obtain therapeutic benefit from renewing the drug and the therapeutic benefit is expected to outweigh the risks of renewing the drug?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ The patient has a stable history on the medication and the drug dosage, formulation and regimen are appropriate and unchanged?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ There are no existing known problems with the drug to be renewed (e.g. drug interactions, adverse effects or contraindications)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ The patient’s condition and treatment with the drug are being monitored appropriately?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ The prescription renewal, including any assigned refills, is estimated to provide a duration of therapy of no more than 90 days?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Standard Reference #**

6.1

6.2
### Section 7
Prescription Adaptation
Decision to Prescribe Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Standard Reference #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Am I adapting a prescription to modify the dose, formulation, regimen and/or duration of the drug therapy?</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the prescription being adapted meet the following criteria:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> For a current (see Definitions) and authentic prescription?</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> For a drug not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. not a narcotic, controlled drug, exempted codeine product (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepine or other targeted substance?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With respect to the prescription adaptation, am I satisfied that:</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> The adapted prescription will maintain / enhance the effectiveness of the drug therapy or improve adherence and not introduce any problems or additional risks to the patient?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am I adapting a prescription’s dose for one of the following reasons?</td>
<td>7.3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> The drug strength is not commercially available.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> The dose of the drug is missing from the prescription and sufficient information about the drug therapy has been obtained from the patient, patient record or other sources to determine the appropriate dose.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> A patient-specific factor (e.g. age, weight, organ function, other medical conditions / medications, etc.) requires that the dose be adjusted.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> In my professional judgment, the circumstances indicate that a different dose will be clinically beneficial to the patient.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am I adapting a prescription’s formulation or regimen for one of the following reasons?</td>
<td>7.3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> The formulation prescribed is not commercially available.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> The formulation or regimen is missing from the prescription and sufficient information about the drug therapy has been obtained from the patient, patient record or other sources to determine the appropriate formulation or regimen.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> An adjustment to the formulation or regimen will enhance the ability of the patient to take the medication more effectively.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> In my professional judgment, the circumstances indicate that a different formulation or regimen will be clinically beneficial to the patient.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am I adapting a prescription’s duration of therapy for one of the following reasons?</td>
<td>7.3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> The duration or therapy / quantity is missing from the prescription and sufficient information about the drug therapy has been obtained from the patient, patient record or other sources to determine the appropriate duration / quantity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> In my professional judgment, the circumstances indicate that a different duration or therapy / quantity will be clinically beneficial to the patient.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Section 8
### Therapeutic Substitution
#### Decision to Prescribe Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is the prescribing for therapeutic substitution being undertaken for a prescription that meets the following criteria:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ For a current (see Definitions) and authentic prescription?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ For a drug not listed in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations, i.e. not a narcotic, controlled drug, exempted codeine product (e.g. Tylenol #1), benzodiazepine or other targeted substance?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With respect to the therapeutic substitution, am I satisfied that:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ The substituted drug, dose and regimen will have an equivalent therapeutic effect based on indications approved by Health Canada or an intended use which is widely accepted as best practice in Canada and supported by extensive medical literature demonstrating safety and efficacy or consistent with a research protocol in which the patient is enrolled?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ I have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the patient (e.g. his/her symptoms, medical history, health status, allergies/intolerances and safety considerations; and, where applicable, his/her personal circumstances, practical needs, values and preferences), condition being treated, patient-specific circumstances and drug selection criteria in order that the therapeutic substitution supports the original therapeutic goal?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ The therapeutic substitution will maintain / enhance the effectiveness of the drug therapy or improve adherence and is not expected to introduce any problems or additional risks to the patient?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ The therapeutic substitution drug selection supports the patient’s best interests with respect to financial, formulary or payer considerations?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the therapeutic substitution prescription not extend the prescription beyond the period when the original prescription and any refills would have finished or for more than one year from the original prescription date, whichever is sooner?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Section 9
Prescribing of Schedule II and III Drugs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision to Prescribe Considerations</th>
<th>Standard Reference #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have I seen and assessed the patient? (Refer to standard 9.3 for assessment specifics.)</td>
<td>9.2, 9.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When I have not seen and assessed the patient, then am I using my professional judgment and choosing to undertake prescribing in this instance based on having achieved all of the following circumstances?

- I have seen the patient personally in the past and have an established professional relationship with the patient;
- I have previously seen and assessed the patient for the condition or have knowledge of the assessment of the patient’s condition by another health care professional (who is legally authorized to diagnose and prescribe and has seen the patient) and that assessment remains current;
- I have knowledge of the patient’s condition and current clinical status relevant to the prescribing decision; and
- I communicated with the patient or their agent regarding the prescribing process and decision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>9.2</th>
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</table>

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**Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists**

**Page: 31**

**November 2015**
APPENDIX B - REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Pharmacists shall carry out the prescribing of drugs in accordance with the Standards of Practice – Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists as well as the following legislation, regulations, the Code of Ethics, agreements, other standards of practice and policy directives relevant to pharmacy practice in Nova Scotia including:

- Nova Scotia Pharmacy Act,
- Pharmacist Drug Prescribing Regulations,
- Practice Regulations,
- Qualification and Professional Accountability Regulations,
- Drug Schedules Regulations,
- Controlled Drugs and Substances Act & its Regulations,
- Food and Drugs Act & Regulations,
- NSCP Code of Ethics,
- Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists,
- Supplemental Standards of Practice for Schedule II and III Drugs, and
- NSCP Policy Directives (where applicable)
APPENDIX C - FIRST AID AND CPR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A pharmacist shall maintain current certification in First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) as required qualifications for prescribing drugs as specified in Standard 3.3.7 in the Standards of Practice: Pharmacist Prescribing.

The specific requirements established by Council for First Aid and CPR certification are outlined below. Certifications are to be obtained through an organization approved by Council:

Canadian Red Cross
St. John Ambulance Canada
Lifesaving Society

Canadian Ski Patrol
Heart and Stroke Foundation

FIRST AID

Certification in Emergency First Aid

CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) CERTIFICATION

Minimum Certification Requirements – all of the following skills are required for CPR certification (CPR Level C or equivalent*):

- Adult/Child/Baby CPR – one rescuer
- Adult/Child/Baby choking
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Operator Certification

In addition to fulfilling the minimum requirements, pharmacists are encouraged to obtain the following preferred / non-mandatory additional CPR skills (these are offered in CPR Level HCP or equivalent*):

- Adult/Child/Baby 2-rescuer CPR
- Rescue breathing
- Adult/Child/Baby Bag-Valve-Masks (BVMs)

Recertification Requirements:

- Recertification is to be through a provider of a First Aid and CPR certification approved by Council (such as the Canadian Red Cross, St. John Ambulance Canada, or the Lifesaving Society).

*For information regarding equivalent CPR levels for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, call the National Resuscitation Support Centre (RSC) at 1-877-473-0333. At the time of printing, the specified CPR levels were reflective of national listings by the Canadian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Canada.
APPENDIX D - PATIENT CONSENT AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

A pharmacist shall obtain informed and voluntary consent for the pharmacist prescribing service and disclosure of information related to pharmacist prescribing in accordance with applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.

For reference, the following overview provides a general understanding of who can provide consent (i.e. Consent Authorities) as well as documentation and information disclosure requirements. For further details and specifics beyond those provided in this appendix, refer directly to the applicable legislation / regulations.

CONSENT AUTHORITIES

Adult Patients

A pharmacist shall obtain informed and voluntary consent from an adult patient, provided that the patient has the capacity to consent.

A pharmacist can assume that an adult patient has the capacity to consent and make his/her own treatment and prescription decisions, unless the pharmacist has reason to doubt a patient’s capacity. Through communicating with the patient and obtaining required information to support the prescribing process (conducted in person if practicable), a pharmacist can confirm a patient’s capacity to consent by determining that the patient has the ability to:

- understand information that is relevant to making a treatment decision, and
- appreciate the reasonably foreseeable consequences of a decision.

Mature Minors

A pharmacist can obtain informed and voluntary consent from a mature minor. A mature minor is one who is capable of understanding the nature and consequences of the treatment and has, therefore, legal capacity to consent to his/her treatment.

A pharmacist shall rely on their own judgment to ascertain whether a minor is sufficiently mature to make treatment decisions. The following factors can assist the pharmacist in assessing the maturity of a minor:

- What is the nature, purpose and utility of the recommended medical treatment? What are the risks and benefits?
- Does the minor demonstrate the intellectual capacity and sophistication to understand the information relevant to making the decision and to appreciate the potential consequences?
- Is there reason to believe that the minor’s views are stable and a true reflection of his or her core values and beliefs?
- What is the potential impact of the minor’s lifestyle, family relationships and broader social affiliations on his or her ability to exercise independent judgment?
- Are there any existing emotional or psychiatric vulnerabilities?
Standards of Practice

Prescribing Drugs

Appendix D Patient Consent and Disclosure Requirements

- Does the minor’s illness or condition have an impact on his or her decision-making ability?
- Is there any relevant information from adults who know the minor (e.g. physicians)?

In situations where a pharmacist determines that a minor has the necessary maturity to make his or her own treatment decisions, all rights in relation to giving or withholding consent will belong to the minor. The parent or guardian will no longer have any overriding right to give or withhold consent.

Patient Agents

When prescribing for an adult or mature minor patient who is not available to provide consent and another individual indicates by direction or implication that he/she is the patient’s agent, the pharmacist shall take reasonable steps to confirm the identity of the individual who is acting as the patient’s agent and to confirm that the individual has the patient’s authorization to act on their behalf. The pharmacist shall consider the nature, purpose and process of the activity requiring consent, including the associated benefits and risks, when using professional judgment to accept consent from the patient’s agent in this situation.

Non-Mature Minors

For non-mature minors, a pharmacist shall obtain informed and voluntary consent from the patient’s agent. The patient’s agent shall be determined in accordance with the considerations and ranked order outlined in the Patients Lacking Capacity to Consent section.

Patients Lacking Capacity to Consent

For patients who lack the capacity to consent, a pharmacist shall obtain informed and voluntary consent from the patient’s agent. The pharmacist shall deal with the patient’s agent as represented by a substitute decision maker appointed by the patient through the Personal Directives Act or the Medical Consent Act (where completed prior to April 1, 2010) to make personal care decisions (including health care decisions) should the patient become incapable of making decisions.

In situations where a personal directive or medical consent appointment exists, the pharmacist shall request a copy of it, follow the instructions and general principles regarding personal care decisions set out in the directive and file it in the pharmacy records for the patient.

In situations where a personal directive or medical consent appointment does not exist (and for non-mature minors as referenced above), the pharmacist shall deal with the patient’s agent as represented by a substitute decision maker in the following ranked order:

- Legal guardian (appointed by the court)
- Nearest relative (as applicable), in this order:
  - Spouse – includes married, common-law (partners living together for one year or more) and registered domestic partners
  - Child
• Parent
• Person standing in loco parentis (in place of the parent)
• Sibling
• Grandparent
• Grandchild
• Aunt or uncle
• Niece or nephew
• Other relative

➢ Public trustee

There is a limitation on the determination of the nearest relative by the ranked order. In order to be a substitute decision maker, the patient’s nearest relative shall meet the following criteria:

➢ has been in personal contact with the patient over the preceding 12 months or has been granted a court order to waive the 12 month period (note that spouses are exempt from this 12 month personal contact requirement);
➢ is willing to assume decision-making responsibility;
➢ knows of no person of a higher rank in priority who is able and willing to assume decision-making responsibility; and
➢ makes a statement in writing to certify the relationship with the patient, that they are willing to act as the substitute decision maker, and know of no person ranked higher in priority.

In addition, the pharmacist shall be satisfied through direct or telephone discussions with the individual and using their professional judgment that the nearest relative can act as the patient’s agent given the nature and purpose of the treatment, the intellectual capacity of the individual and the impact on the patient.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Documentation of Informed Consent

A pharmacist shall include documentation in the pharmacy records for the patient that informed and voluntary consent was obtained and from whom. Written consent from the patient or patient’s agent is not required. Documentation of consent in the pharmacy records for the patient shall include:

➢ the name of the person who provided consent,
➢ confirmation of consent (can be satisfied by checking a “consent obtained” box) for the pharmacist prescribing service and for disclosure of prescribing decision details and information to the patient’s primary health care provider, the original prescriber (if different from the primary health care provider and/or other appropriate health care professionals, and
➢ where applicable, confirmation of consent directly on the prescription record for the pharmacist to dispense a drug which he/she prescribed.

Documentation for Patients Lacking Capacity to Consent

For a patient who lacks the capacity to consent and a personal directive or medical consent appointment exists, a pharmacist shall obtain a copy of the Personal Directive
or Medical Consent (where completed prior to April 1, 2010) and file it in the pharmacy records for the patient.

For a patient who lacks the capacity to consent / non-mature minors where the patient's agent is the “nearest relative”, a pharmacist shall obtain and file written confirmation from the agent that he/she is the nearest relative (supported by a birth certificate or other identification), that he or she has been in personal contact with the patient over the preceding 12 months, is willing to assume decision-making responsibility with respect to the pharmacist prescribing, and knows of no one who ranks higher in the hierarchy of relatives who is able and willing to assume decision-making responsibility.

For a patient who lacks the capacity to consent / non-mature minors where the patient's agent is a legal guardian or public trustee, a pharmacist shall review the court issued order to confirm applicability and retain a copy of the documentation.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS**

In accordance with the *Pharmacist Drug Prescribing Regulations* and section 3.8 of these standards, a pharmacist shall communicate all actions taken in prescribing to the patient’s primary health care provider, the original prescriber (if different from the primary health care provider) and/or other appropriate health care professionals.

There can be other circumstances that require or justify a pharmacist to disclose information regarding actions taken in prescribing without the patient’s informed and voluntary consent, including:

- reporting suspected abuse related to the administration of medication in accordance with the Protection for Persons in Care Act (note that such reporting is not a mandatory duty for a pharmacist),
- reporting an adult in need of protection in accordance with the Adult Protection Act,
- reporting child abuse in accordance with the Children and Family Services Act, and
- reporting notifiable diseases in accordance with the *Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Conditions Regulations*.

Refer to the cited legislation for additional information regarding the disclosure of information in the above circumstances.
APPENDIX E - COMMUNICATION PROCESS AND NOTIFICATION FORMS

INTRODUCTION

The Standards of Practice – Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists specifies the importance of effective communication and inter-professional collaboration in support of patient health and safety in a patient-centred and collaborative model of care. An established process is required for timely and appropriate communication and collaboration among pharmacists, other health care professionals and the patient regarding the pharmacist prescribing process and decisions. A communication process framework and notification forms for pharmacist prescribing are provided in the following sections.

PROCESS FRAMEWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication Roles and Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribing Process - supporting the patient’s health, safety and best interest:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribing Pharmacist</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient or Patient’s Agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Health Care Provider, Original Prescriber &amp; Other Pharmacists / Health Care Professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribing Decision - providing information on the pharmacist prescription for new, changed or renewed drug therapy to support continuity of patient care and collaborative care:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribing Pharmacist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Communication Roles and Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patient or Patient’s Agent</strong></td>
<td>Listens to information from the prescribing pharmacist and asks questions, if required, to fully understand what the drug is for, how to take it, the possible side effects and follow-up plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Health Care Provider, Original Prescriber &amp; Other Pharmacists / Health Care Professionals</strong></td>
<td>Reviews Pharmacist Prescribing Notification form and adds it to the patient record. Considers the new prescription in future care and treatment of the patient. Takes appropriate action, if warranted by the new prescription (e.g. risk to patient).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Follow-up Results - providing information on subsequent patient monitoring to support continuity of patient care and collaborative care:** | For communication with patient or patient’s agent:  
- Obtains information on the response to the new prescription and provides additional information, as required.  
For communication with primary health care provider, original prescriber (if applicable and different from primary health care provider) and other applicable pharmacists / health care professionals:  
- Communicates the results of subsequent monitoring of the patient regarding the pharmacist prescribing.  
- Provides written communication using the standard Monitoring Results Notification form (provided in the Notification Forms section of Appendix E).  
- Uses communication method which maintains confidentiality.  
- Completes communication within 24 hours of follow-up with patient or as soon as possible thereafter. |
| **Patient or Agent** | Provides information to the pharmacist and asks questions, if applicable, regarding the response to the new prescription. |
| **Primary Health Care Provider, Original Prescriber & Other Pharmacists / Health Care Professionals** | Reviews Monitoring Results Notification form and adds it to the patient record. Considers the monitoring results in future care and treatment of the patient. Takes appropriate action (e.g. intervention, monitoring, etc.), if warranted by the monitoring results. |
## Notification Forms

### Pharmacist Prescribing Notification

To Physician / Health Care Provider: You are receiving this form to facilitate you maintaining an accurate and complete patient record and to avoid duplication of interventions.

**Notification Information**

Health Care Professional Notified:

Notification Date:

Method: □ Fax □ Phone □ Other

**Patient Information**

Name: 

Health Card #: 

Informed Consent provided by: □ Patient □ Patient’s Agent (specify agent name)

**Original Prescription Information**

*complete if renewal, adapted prescription or therapeutic substitution*

Prescription Date:

Prescription Details:

Prescriber Name: 

Phone: 

Fax: 

**Pharmacist Prescribing Category**

☐ Adaptation: □ Dose □ Formulation □ Regimen □ Duration

☐ Renewal □ Therapeutic Substitution

☐ Emergency Prescription □ Approved Condition (Minor & Common Ailments, Preventable Disease or Collaborative Prescribing)

☐ Schedule II and III Drugs

**Prescription Information**

Prescription Date:

Prescription Details:

Prescribing Rationale:

Patient Communication / Instructions:

**Follow-up Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Therapeutic Goal</th>
<th>Monitoring Process &amp; Patient Communication Requirements</th>
<th>Date for Follow-up</th>
<th>Individual Responsible for Follow-up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Pharmacist to provide subsequent Follow-up Results Report

**Pharmacist Information**

Pharmacist Name: 

Phone: 

Fax: 

Pharmacy:
**Pharmacist Prescribing & Drug Administration Notification**

*To Physician / Health Care Provider:* You are receiving this form to facilitate you maintaining an accurate and complete patient record and to avoid duplication of interventions.

### Notification Information

Health Care Professional Notified:

Notification Date:

Method: □ Fax □ Phone □ Other □

### Patient Information

Name: ____________________________ Health Card #: _______________________

Informed Consent provided by: □ Patient □ Patient’s Agent (specify agent name): _______________________

### Pharmacist Prescribing Category

- □ Renewal
- □ Approved Condition (Minor & Common Ailment, Preventable Disease or Collaborative Prescribing)
- □ Emergency Prescription
- □ Therapeutic Substitution
- □ Schedule II and III Drugs
- □ Adaptation: □ Dose □ Formulation □ Regimen □ Duration

### Prescription Information

Prescription Details: ____________________________ Date: _______________________

Prescribing Rationale: ____________________________

Patient Communication / Instructions: ____________________________

### Information on Drug Administration

- **Drug Name and Dosage:** ____________________________
- **Lot:** _______________________

**Indication:** ____________________________

**Risk Factor(s)** (e.g. comorbidities, immunosuppression): ____________________________

**Administration Date:** ____________________________

Other Details, e.g. site of injection, adverse reaction / treatment (if applicable):

### Follow-up Plan (if applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Therapeutic Goal</th>
<th>Follow-up/monitoring actions to be undertaken</th>
<th>Date for Follow-up</th>
<th>Follow-Up (RPh name)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Follow-up Plan Results (if applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Therapeutic Goal</th>
<th>Follow-up Action Undertaken</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

□ Pharmacist to provide subsequent Follow-up Results Report if appropriate

**Pharmacist Information**

Pharmacist Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

Pharmacy: ____________________________ Fax: ____________________________

May 2015
## Pharmacist Monitoring Results Notification

**To Physician / Health Care Provider:** You are receiving this form to facilitate you maintaining an accurate and complete patient record and to avoid duplication of interventions.

### Notification Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Care Professional Notified:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notification Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method:</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Patient Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Health Card #:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informed Consent provided by:</th>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Patient’s Agent (specify agent name)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Information on Monitored Prescription

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescription Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescription Details:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Follow-up Plan Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Therapeutic Goal</th>
<th>Follow-up Actions</th>
<th>Date of Follow-up</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pharmacist Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pharmacist Name:</th>
<th>Phone:</th>
<th>Fax:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Pharmacy:
**APPENDIX F - DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

The following information regarding prescribing by a pharmacist shall be documented, filed and retained in the pharmacy records:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Patient Information</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contact information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provincial health card number (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weight and height, if applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Any known contraindications or allergies / intolerances to drugs, excipients or other substances related to drug therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medical conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pregnancy and lactation status, if applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other relevant information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescription Order (written or printed copy)</th>
<th>Patient name and address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date of prescription</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug name, strength and dosage form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directions for use and route of administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of refills and interval between each refill, if applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name of prescribing pharmacist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reference to the original prescription and prescriber name / contact information, where applicable (i.e. prescription adaptation, therapeutic substitution and prescription renewal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>File the original and new prescriptions together in cases where the original prescription from another prescriber is adapted or substituted with a therapeutic equivalent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prescribing Details</th>
<th>Date of prescribing decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presenting health condition or drug related problem including symptoms, signs, history and any treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Patient assessment details / findings, including:
- date of assessment
- physical characteristics, condition and measurements (e.g. weight, height, etc.)
- date, extent and results of last assessment of the condition, if applicable
- laboratory or other diagnostic test results
- subjective and objective findings
- diagnosis (if available)
- medical history, as applicable
- family medical history, as applicable
- current medical conditions, medications, non-medication therapies, health care products / devices and treatments
- risk factors
- other health care professionals and caregivers involved in providing treatment/care
- personal circumstances, practical needs, values and preferences, where applicable
- other information relevant to the assessment

Description of prescribing decision, its rationale and any supporting information / documents (e.g. laboratory report, previous prescription label, written documentation of diagnosis from health care professional requesting pharmacist to select and prescribe appropriate drug therapy, etc.)

Instructions to patient

Follow-up plan details to allow other health care professionals or caregivers to monitor patient’s progress

Name of prescribing pharmacist

Information to allow other professional staff in the pharmacy to provide continuity of care

Date and method of notifying original prescriber

Date and method of notifying other health care professionals, if applicable

Reference to the original prescription and prescriber name / contact information, when applicable (i.e. prescription adaptation, therapeutic substitution and prescription renewal)

Patient informed and voluntary consent (refer to Appendix D for Patient Consent and Disclosure Requirements)

Details of subsequent monitoring and follow-up regarding the pharmacist prescribing, where applicable.
APPENDIX G - SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS APPROVED BY COUNCIL FOR PHARMACIST PRESCRIBING

Pharmacists may undertake prescribing of Schedule I drugs for the following conditions approved by NSCP Council and which are within the pharmacist’s scope of practice, knowledge, skills, competencies and experience.

(i) MINOR AND COMMON AILMENT PRESCRIBING

Minor and common ailments are health conditions that can be managed with minimal treatment and/or self-care strategies. Patients with these ailments have traditionally been assessed and provided treatment recommendations within the practice of pharmacy. Prescribing for minor and common ailments may be undertaken for the following:

- Dyspepsia
- Gastro-esophageal Reflux Disease
- Nausea
- Non-infectious Diarrhea
- Hemorrhoids
- Allergic Rhinitis
- Cough
- Nasal Congestion
- Sore Throat*
- Mild Headache
- Minor Muscle Pain
- Minor Joint Pain
- Minor Sleep Disorders
- Dysmenorrhea
- Emergency Contraception
- Xerophthalmia (dry eyes)
- Oral Ulcers
- Oral Fungal Infection (thrush)
- Fungal Infections of the Skin
- Vaginal Candidiasis
- Threadworms and Pinworms
- Herpes Simplex
- Contact Allergic Dermatitis
- Mild Acne
- Mild to Moderate Eczema
- Mild Urticaria (including bites and stings)
- Impetigo
- Dandruff
- Calluses and Corns
- Warts (excluding facial and genital)
- Smoking Cessation

*Pharmacists are not authorized to prescribe antibiotics for bacterial sore throat.

Note that the prescribing of Schedule II and III drugs is not limited to the minor and common ailments listed above. Schedule II and III drugs can be prescribed for these and other ailments in accordance with the standards of practice specified in Section 3: General Standards of Practice – Pharmacist Prescribing and Section 9: Prescribing of Schedule II and III Drugs – Additional Standards.
(II) 
**Prescribing for Preventable Diseases**

Prescribing for the following vaccines may be undertaken by pharmacists with a valid NSCP Drug Administration by Injection Permit:

- Vaccine for Hepatitis A Prevention
- Vaccine for Hepatitis B Prevention
- Vaccine for Varicella Prevention
- Vaccine for Herpes Zoster Prevention
- Vaccine for Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Vaccine for Typhoid Fever Prevention

Note that vaccines included in the provincial immunization program (e.g. influenza, tetanus, diphtheria, pneumococcal, meningitis etc.) are not listed above because they are Schedule II drugs, do not require a prescription and therefore, can be provided as per Schedule II requirements (see Standard 9 – Prescribing of Schedule II and III Drugs).

(iii) Collaborative Prescribing When Diagnosis Provided

Prescribing in particular circumstances where a health care professional, who is legally authorized to diagnose and prescribe, provides written documentation regarding a specific patient directly to the pharmacist. The documentation indicates the patient’s diagnosis and planned collaborative management and requests the pharmacist to select and prescribe the appropriate drug therapy for the diagnosis, either as a one-time occurrence or for ongoing drug therapy. The pharmacist shall note the diagnosis and name of the health care professional providing it on the prescription record.

---

¹ For further clarification, note that collaborative prescribing when a diagnosis is provided is separate and distinct from Section 3 (3) (f) of the Pharmacist Drug Prescribing Regulations which represents prescribing in a practice setting approved by Council, such as a hospital, a home for special care or a multi-disciplinary environment where collaborative relationships or appropriate protocols have been established.