

# PHARMACY PRACTICE POLICY

## Fax Transmission of Prescriptions

\*Health Canada has issued a section 56 exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and its Regulations. While this exemption is in effect, the restriction against faxing prescriptions for medications monitored by the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program is not applicable. This will remain in effect until the earliest of September 30, 2026, or the date this exemption is replaced by another exemption, or the date it is revoked by Health Canada, or the date the NSPMP Board of Directors revokes.

### Policy

Prescriptions, with the exception of those for Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program (NSPMP) monitored drugs, may be transmitted by facsimile by a prescriber to a pharmacy provided the following requirements are met:

1. The prescription must be sent only to the pharmacy of the patient's choice with no intervening person having access to the drug order.
2. Pharmacy practitioners shall not provide prescribers with blank fax forms that are pre-printed with any reference to the pharmacy.\*
3. Pharmacy practitioners take all reasonable steps to be satisfied that the prescription is authentic and valid and is the one and only copy.
4. The fax machine receiving the prescription must be located within a secure area of the pharmacy to protect the confidentiality of the prescription information, preferably in the dispensary.
5. The rules which apply to regular written prescriptions regarding out of province prescribers also apply to prescription transmission by facsimile.
6. Prescription transfers may be completed by facsimile transmission, with the exception of NSPMP monitored drugs.\*\* Requirements for documentation of transfers are set out in the [\*Food and Drugs Regulations\*](#) (sections C.01.041.1, and C.01.042.2).
7. Pharmacy practitioners are responsible for verifying the legitimacy and authenticity of the prescription and the prescriber.

\*In situations involving bonafide nursing home/long-term care facilities ONLY, pharmacy practitioners may:

- provide nursing home physicians with prescription fax forms preprinted with pharmacy information such as the name, address, phone and fax number ONLY IF the pharmacy has a contract with that nursing home. Pharmacists will take all reasonable steps to remove these pre-printed forms, should the contract expire.
- honour a prescription faxed by the prescriber to a nurse approved by the nursing home facility, and then forwarded by the nurse to the pharmacist. The form shall be identified in such a way that the pharmacist is

made aware it is not directly from the physician and the pharmacist shall be responsible for the prescription's authenticity and validity.