PRACTICE GUIDANCE: DISPENSING MIFEGYMISO®

Updated November 16, 2017

Introduction

In June 2015, Health Canada approved the drug product Mifegymiso® for non-surgical abortion in Canada. At that time, Health Canada’s approval included a Restricted Distribution Program that was the subject of considerable debate. Significant revision to Mifegymiso’s approved use and distribution was issued by Health Canada on November 7, 2017.

The Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists provides the following guidance to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians when dispensing Mifegymiso® so that unnecessary barriers for patient access can be avoided and appropriate safeguards for patient safety are in place. For clarity, pharmacists in Nova Scotia are authorized to dispense but not to prescribe Mifegymiso.

Guidance

Health Canada’s November 7, 2017 Information Update on Mifegymiso states that:

- Mifegymiso can now be prescribed up to nine weeks (63 days) into a pregnancy, rather than the previous limit of seven weeks (49 days).
- Mifegymiso can now be dispensed directly to patients by a pharmacist or a prescribing health professional. Directions for use remain the same. Patients should take the medication as directed by their health professional, either at a health facility or at home.
- While dialogue and information sharing between patients and health professionals is always important, the requirement for written patient consent to use Mifegymiso is being removed.
- Health professionals will no longer be required to register with Celopharma in order to prescribe or dispense Mifegymiso.
Collaboration

It is critical that in providing Mifegymiso® to patients, there is clear, interprofessional communication regarding the directions for consumption, and the responsibility and accountability for informed consent, counselling, assessment, monitoring and follow-up.

At a local level, pharmacists are encouraged to communicate with physicians in advance regarding whether they are willing and competent to participate in providing Mifegymiso® to patients. Participating practitioners must use a collaborative process that will ensure the care provided is patient-centered, does not create unnecessary barriers to access, and provides appropriate safeguards for patient safety.

Given the time-sensitive nature of medical abortion, pharmacies should have a plan in place that protects patients’ rights to access high-quality health services while also upholding individual providers’ rights to conscientious objection.

Competency

It is the professional responsibility of a pharmacist to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills required to competently dispense Mifegymiso®. The following educational resources are available to support the pharmacist in meeting this responsibility.

Resources

_Accredited Medical Abortion Training Program_, Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, 2016


General product information and forms, Celopharma, Inc. [www.celopharma.com](http://www.celopharma.com)