PREScriptions
Reasonable steps must be taken to ensure a written, verbal or faxed prescription, where permitted, is authentic and the prescriber is licensed and practices in Canada and belongs to a class of persons who, if licensed in Nova Scotia, would be entitled by law to prescribe that drug or device in Nova Scotia.

- There shall be no initial dispensing of a prescription and no prescription shall be refilled after a period of one year from the date prescribed.
- Currently in Nova Scotia, only physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners and veterinarians are authorized to prescribe Narcotic and Controlled Drugs and Substances. Optometrists and midwives have limited prescribing authority to prescribe Prescription Drugs but only under the conditions set out in their respective provincial legislation.

PRESCRIPTION Transfers
- Transfers are not permitted for Narcotic and Controlled Drugs.
- Upon request, a pharmacist or pharmacy technician shall transfer a prescription or the remaining refills of a prescription to another pharmacist or pharmacy technician licensed in a Canadian jurisdiction, provided the prescription does not include a Narcotic or Controlled drug.
- A prescription for a Targeted Substance (e.g. benzodiazepines) may be transferred; however, once it has been received at a second pharmacy, NO further transfer is permitted.
- Only a pharmacist may transfer / accept a transfer of a Targeted Substance.
- When transferring a prescription from outside Nova Scotia, the prescriber must be licensed and practicing in Canada and belong to a class of persons who, if licensed in Nova Scotia, would be entitled by law to prescribe that drug or device in Nova Scotia.
- The pharmacist or pharmacy technician who transfers a prescription shall enter the fact that the prescription was transferred on the patient’s record and include the date of transfer, the name of the receiving pharmacist or pharmacy technician and pharmacy, the number of authorized refills remaining, the date of the last refill, the date of the original prescription and the prescription number.

Note: The transfer must comply with the Food & Drug Act (Canada), the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) and the regulations under those Acts.

DESTRUCTION
All drugs awaiting destruction will be stored in a manner that restricts unauthorized access and that enables ready identification of tampering and/or diversion. Pharmacies will destroy CDSA drugs at the earliest opportunity, in a manner required by law, and consistent with recognized best practices in minimizing negative environmental impact.

PRESCRIPTION Monitoring Program (PMP)
The drugs included in the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) are those that from time to time are recommended by the Program for inclusion in the list of monitored drugs. No pharmacist shall dispense a prescription for a monitored drug unless the prescription is written on the duplicate prescription form provided by the Program or e-prescribed through the provincial Drug Information System (DIS). Pharmacists shall obtain a signature or electronic equivalent from the patient or patient’s agent for every release of a Narcotic or Controlled Drug. Pharmacists may access patient profiles through the DIS or PMP’s e-Access to ensure the appropriate use of and to reduce the misuse of monitored drugs. Further PMP information can be accessed at (902) 496-7123 or www.nspmp.ca.

Note: Some out of province practitioners participate in this Program. Prescriptions for patients written on the NSPMP duplicate prescription forms by these prescribers who have registered with NSPMP may be filled by Nova Scotia pharmacists. Out of province practitioners must also be registered with NSPMP to prescribe benzodiazepines in Nova Scotia.

DIVERSION
Report any loss that cannot be explained or the risk of diversion is high, theft, or forged prescription of Narcotic and Controlled Drugs and Targeted Substances to the Office of Controlled Substances (OCS) within 10 days; a copy of this report is to be forwarded to the NSCP. A fillable Loss and Theft Report Form for Controlled Substances and Precursors can be accessed on the Health Canada website. Loss, theft and forged prescriptions should be reported to the local police authority. Double doctoring of Narcotic and Controlled Drugs and Targeted Substances is illegal and should be reported.
**Classification/Description** | **Written Requirements** | **Prescription Requirements** | **Fax** | **Refills** | **Part-Fills** | **Records**
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
**Narcotic Drugs**
- Narcotic, e.g. Carfentanil (Carfentanil Citrate), Hydrocodone (Hydrocodone), Methadone (Methadone Citrate), MS Contin (MS-IR)
- Narcotic 1 active non-narcotic ingredient, e.g. Tylenol 3, Tylox (Tylenol Hydrocodone) Suboxone

| YES | NO | YES | NO |

| YES | NO | YES | NO |

| YES | NO | YES | NO |

Written instructions must be included on the original prescription specifying the total quantity of the drug, the amount to be dispensed for each fill and the interval between each fill.

This can be done by assigning each part-fills a unique prescription number. Other information number referred back to the original prescription number. A hard copy of the original prescription must be generated for each part-fill. A record of the date of the part-fill, prescription number, quantity dispensed, and the pharmacist’s initials on the last copy. A signature must be obtained from the individual to whom the part-fill is released. Transfers of “part fills” and unsold prescriptions are not permitted.

NOTE: The pharmacist may change a prescription to a part-fill if the total quantity ordered by the prescriber is not measured. The pharmacist, after discussion with the patient/patient agent, may dispense a smaller quantity for economic, patient safety or other reasons based on their professional judgement. The pharmacist must write the part-fill instructions on the original prescription as noted above.

Third-party insurance may not reimburse the cost of extra dispensing fees.

**Prescription**
- Request a signature from a licensed pharmacist be provided on the original prescription.
- All purchases for Narcotic Drugs and Controlled Drugs and their preparations, including Exempted Codeine Compounds, are to be recorded. The record should include the brand name, quantity, strength, name of the supplier and the date received.
- Records, including printed computer reports, must be current and kept for at least 5 years.

**Value**
- Sales reports are required by federal legislation for all Narcotic Drugs and Controlled Drugs - Part I
- Narcotic Preparations - Part II

**Reference**
- Exemptions to the NS Prescription Monitoring Program include prescriptions for Controlled Substances as follows:
  1. from a veterinarian for her/his patients (birds, fish, animals)
  2. for residents in a licensed nursing home as defined by the Homes for Special Care Act.

**Controlled Drugs - Part I**
- 1 or more active non-narcotic controlled drugs e.g. Darvon Elixir, Suboxone

| YES | NO | YES | NO |

| YES | NO | YES | NO |

| YES | NO | YES | NO |

| YES | NO | YES | NO |

Controlled Drugs - Part II
- Barbiturates and their salts and derivations: e.g. Phenobarbital, Barbital, Secobarbital (Subbarbit)

**Controlled Drugs - Part III**
- Ketamine (Ketalar), Methadone (Methadone Citrate)

**Prescription Drugs**
- All drugs listed in the Prescription Drug List (formerly Schedule F) of the Food and Drug Act and Regulations

| YES | YES | YES | YES |

| YES | YES | YES | YES |

*The products noted are examples only and all drugs in a given classification may not be listed.

*Only in accordance with the NSCP Council Policy - Facsimile Transmission of Prescriptions.