

## Professional Notice

**To:** Pharmacy Practitioners  
**From:** Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists  
**Date:** April 1, 2020  
**Re:** CCP Discontinuation; Prescribing During the COVID-19 Pandemic; COVID-19 Screening

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### CCP Discontinuation

This is a reminder that **as of today, April 1, 2020, the Continued Care Prescription (CCP) Agreements with the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Nova Scotia College of Nursing are no longer in effect.** This means that pharmacists must now prescribe a renewal in order to extend the supply of a patient's existing prescription.

### Prescribing During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The public needs all healthcare providers to practice to the top of their abilities and competencies. Given the public's need for pharmacists to use their prescribing authority now more than ever, pharmacists should review the *Position Statement: Adoption of Prescribing into Routine Pharmacy Practice* and consider the following:

- **Every effort should be made not to refer patients to a walk-in clinic or emergency department, particularly now that community transmission of COVID-19 in Nova Scotia has begun.**
- Pharmacists have been provided with the *Prescribing in a Public Health Emergency/Crisis Standards (Appendix H)* and the *Emergency Protocol: Prescribing Narcotics, Controlled and Targeted Drugs* to support their prescribing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### COVID-19 Screening

The NSCP is working closely with Public Health and PANS to establish strategies to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus at pharmacies. A separate screening hotline for healthcare workers has been established and is available to community pharmacy practitioners. **Community pharmacy practitioners who may have been exposed or are showing symptoms of COVID-19 can call 1-833-547-0059 for direction.**

I commend you on the service that you have been providing to your patients and the public. What we are doing collectively is making a difference.