

## Professional Notice

**To:** Pharmacy Practitioners  
**From:** Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists  
**Date:** April 14, 2020  
**Re:** Temporary Suspension of 180 Days Renewal Limit; Keeping DIS Current

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### Temporary Suspension of 180 Days Renewal Limit

The NSCP has temporarily suspended the 180 days supply restriction for consecutive pharmacist prescribed renewals in circumstances where the patient is unable to be assessed by their primary care provider.

This provision has been added to *Prescribing in a Public Health Emergency/Crisis (Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs - Appendix H)*. This temporary provision will allow pharmacists to exceed the 180 days prescribing limit for renewals during the COVID-19 pandemic for patients who do not have a primary care provider or are unable to access them at this time.

This provision allows pharmacists to better meet the needs of their patients and supports Public Health's strategy that walk-in clinics and emergency departments be used for essential visits only – with the goal of minimizing risk of disease transmission.

### Keeping DIS Current

Pharmacy managers, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians need to pay particular attention to ensuring that all dispenses have been recorded in the DIS, and that any queue issues have been identified and resolved as soon as possible. In the event that a pharmacy must close due to COVID-19, the ability of another pharmacy to provide care to a patient depends on the accuracy of the information contained in the patient profile in the DIS.