

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: May 4, 2021
Re: Preparation of COVID-19 Vaccine Syringes

The NSCP is providing the following clarifying guidance for pharmacists and pharmacy managers as they work to make full use of their pharmacy staff in preparing vaccine syringes for immunization services.

- Pharmacy legislation governs the practice of pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians, students and interns – but NOT pharmacy assistants. Pharmacy assistants are not addressed in the *Pharmacy Act* or regulations, and therefore have no authority to practice pharmacy. A pharmacist is fully responsible for all activities completed by a pharmacy assistant as if the pharmacist had completed the activity themselves.
- For pharmacy technicians, students and interns who have a Drug Administration by Injection Technical Permit (Permit), the pharmacist may delegate technical activities to them (in accordance with the *Standards of Practice: Drug Administration* s. 1.5 and 1.6). The pharmacist remains responsible for their decision to delegate.
- When a pharmacist uses pharmacy staff who do not have a Permit, including pharmacy assistants, delegation is NOT possible, and the pharmacist remains wholly responsible for the preparation of the vaccine syringes as if the pharmacist had completed this themselves.

Please contact Anne Marentette, Pharmacy Practice Manager, if you require further clarification.

Note: previous guidance on the use of a licensed nurse in providing immunization services was distributed in the NSCP's Professional Notice *Registrar's Advisory on COVID-19 Immunization: Nurses as Immunizers in Pharmacies* issued March 15, 2021.