

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: June 22, 2021
Re: Extension of Health Canada CDSA Exemption

On March 19, 2020, Health Canada proactively issued a national class exemption under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and its regulations for practitioners and pharmacists in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health Canada has authorized a five year extension of this subsection 56(l) class exemption from the CDSA. The class exemption will be effective October 1, 2021 (when the previous exemption expires) to September 30, 2026.

The class exemption for patients, practitioners and pharmacists will continue to streamline patient care by preventing patients from going without access to medication, reducing the number of patients needing to go to hospital emergency rooms to obtain prescriptions, and allowing pharmacists to accept verbal prescriptions.