

Prescription regulations summary chart

Summary of federal and provincial laws governing prescription drug ordering, records, prescription requirements, and refills

Revised 2019

Prescription regulations

According to the *Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians*:

- 6.4 Neither a pharmacist nor a pharmacy technician may dispense a drug or blood product under a prescription that was issued more than one year before the date the drug or blood product is to be dispensed.
- 6.5 Neither a pharmacist nor a pharmacy technician may refill a prescription for
- a benzodiazepine or other targeted substance, as defined in the regulations to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, for a period greater than 12 months after the prescription was first written, or
 - a Schedule 1 drug for a period greater than 18 months after the prescription was first filled.

Prescriptions for drugs on the Prescription Drug List can be transferred to another pharmacy either by fax or over the phone by a pharmacist or pharmacy technician. The pharmacist or pharmacy technician receiving the transferred prescription must obtain all the information required in a prescription in addition to:

- the name and address of the transferring pharmacy;
- the name of the transferring pharmacist;
- the number of authorized refills remaining and, if applicable, the specified interval between refills; and
- the date of the first fill and last refill (or the date the prescription was written, if applicable).

Once the prescription is transferred out, the pharmacist or pharmacy technician who transferred the prescription must inactivate the prescription at their pharmacy, ensuring it is not dispensed or transferred again. In addition, the following information must be documented:

- the date of the transfer;
- the name and address of the pharmacy that received the prescription;
- the name of the pharmacist who received the prescription;
- the name of the pharmacist who transferred the prescription; and
- the name of the pharmacy technician who assisted the pharmacist with the transfer, if applicable.

Products included in the Triplicate Prescription Program*

This is a reference list provided for convenience. While all generic medication names appear, only sample brand names are provided and it should not be viewed as an all-inclusive listing of all trade names of drugs included in the Triplicate Prescription Program.

BUPRENORPHINE

BuTrans, Suboxone**

BUTALBITAL PREPARATIONS

Fiorinal, Fiorinal C ¼ & C ½, Pronal, Ratio-Tecnal, Ratio-Tecnal C ¼ & C ½, Trianal, Trianal C ½

BUTORPHANOL

Butorphanol NS, PMS-Butorphanol, Torbutrol (Vet), Torbugesic (Vet)

DEXTROPROPOXYPHENE

None identified

FENTANYL/SUFENTANIL/ALFENTANIL

Alfentanil Injection, Apo-Fentanyl Matrix, Co-Fentanyl, Duragesic patches, Fentanyl Citrate Injection, Fentora, Mylan-Fentanyl, PMS-Fentanyl MTX, Ran-Fentanyl, Sufentanil Citrate Injection USP, Sterimax, Teva-Fentanyl

HYDROCODONE – DIHYDROCODEINONE

Dalmacol, Dimetane Expectorant-DC, Hycodan, Novahistex-DH, Novahistine-DH, PDH-Hydrocodone, Tussionex, Vasofrinic DH

HYDROMORPHONE – DIHYDROMORPHINONE

Dilaudid, Dilaudid-HP, Hydromorph Contin, Jurnista, PMS-Hydromorphone

KETAMINE

Ketalar, Ketalean (Vet), Ketamine Hydrochloride Injection USP, Ketaset (Vet), Narktan (Vet)

MEPERIDINE - PETHIDINE

Demerol, Meperidine HCL injection

METHADONE

Metadol, Methadose - *May only be prescribed by physicians who hold an approval to prescribe methadone from their provincial regulatory body****

METHYLPHENIDATE

Biphentin®, Foquest®, and Concerta® brands are excluded from TPP prescription pad requirements (generic versions of these products require a triplicate prescription)

Apo-Methylphenidate, PHL-Methylphenidate, PMS-Methylphenidate, PMS-Methylphenidate ER, Ratio-Methylphenidate, Ritalin, Ritalin SR, Sandoz-Methylphenidate SR, Teva-Methylphenidate ER-C

MORPHINE

Morphine Sulfate

Kadian, M-Eslon, Morphine HP & LP, MS Contin, MS-IR, Ratio-Morphine SR, Statex, PMS-Morphine Sulfate SR, Sandoz-Morphine SR, Teva-Morphine SR

Morphine Hydrochloride

Doloral, Morphine Epidural, Ratio-Morphine

NORMETHADONE

Cophylac

OXYCODONE

ACT-Oxycodone CR, Apo-Oxycodone CR, Endocet, Oxy-IR, OxyNEO, Percocet, Percocet-Demi, PMS-Oxycodone-Acetaminophen, PMS-Oxycodone CR, Ratio-Oxycocet, Ratio-Oxycodan, Rivacocet, Sandoz-Oxycodone/acetaminophen, Supeudol, Targin

PENTAZOCINE

Talwin

TAPENTADOL

Nucynta ER, Nucynta IR

* For Veterinary considerations, please review *Triplicate Prescription Program Guide*: <http://www.cpsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/TPP-Guide.pdf>

**There are special considerations for physicians prescribing Buprenorphine for opioid dependency (Suboxone). Please review Suboxone Prescribing: http://www.cpsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Buprenorphine-Suboxone-Requirements-for-Dependence-flow-chart_web.png

*** Confirm approval by contacting the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta 780-423-4764 or 1-800-561-3899 or email methadoneinfo@cpsa.ab.ca for Alberta prescriptions. Otherwise, contact the appropriate regulatory body in the prescription's province or origin

CLASSIFICATIONS	DESCRIPTION	PRESCRIPTION REQUIREMENTS	REFILLS	FILING	PURCHASE RECORD	SALE RECORD	ELECTRONIC ORDERING	PHONE ORDERING
N Narcotic drugs Examples: Butrans*, Cesamet, Codeine, Cophylac*, Demerol*, Dilaudid*, Dimetane Exp DC*, Duragesic*, Jurnista*, Ketalar*, Lomotil, Metadol*, Methadose*, Morphine*, Novahistex DH*, Percocet*, Suboxone*, Talwin*, Targin*, Tussionex*, Tylenol #4, Tylenol with Codeine Elixir	All single entity narcotic drugs. All narcotics for parenteral use. All preparations containing more than one narcotic drug or containing less than two non-narcotic ingredients.	Written or faxed** prescriptions signed and dated by an authorized prescriber. Verbal prescriptions are not permitted.	No refills or transfers permitted. All "re-orders" must be new written prescriptions. Part fills allowed; for part fills, prescriber must indicate the total amount of medication, quantity for each part fill, and intervals between fills	A pharmacist or a pharmacy technician who engages in dispensing must ensure that their dispensing activities are recorded in a clear audit trail that identifies: a. all individuals who were involved in the processing of a prescription and dispensing of the drug, and b. the role of each individual. A licensee must ensure that written prescriptions, transaction records, compounding records and repackaging records for all drugs that have been dispensed, compounded or repackaged are: a. filed systematically; and b. retained for at least two years past the completion of drug therapy with regard to the prescription or for 42 months (3.5 years), from the date of first fill, whichever is the longest period.	Upon receiving, a pharmacist must record: 1. Drug name 2. Quantity received 3. Date received 4. Name and address of the licensed dealer, pharmacist, or hospital Records/ invoices must be readily available on the premises and kept in a manner that permits auditing.	YES Except Propoxyphene	YES	NO
N Verbal prescription narcotics Examples: Dimetane Expectorant-C, Calmylin ACE, Dimetapp-C Syrup, Robitussin AC, 292 Tablets, Tylenol #2, Tylenol #3, Fiorinal-C/1/4, C1/2*	Preparations that are not for parenteral use and contain only one narcotic drug plus two or more additional medicinal ingredients in a therapeutic dose. May not contain diacetylmorphine (heroin), hydrocodone*, methadone*, oxycodone*, or pentazocine*.	Written, faxed** or verbal prescriptions from an authorized prescriber. Verbal prescriptions must be direct from prescriber to pharmacist***. All verbal prescriptions must be reduced to writing by the pharmacist and indicate:	No refills or transfers permitted. All "re-orders" must be new prescriptions. Part fills allowed; for part fills, prescriber must indicate the total amount of medication, quantity for each part fill, and intervals between fills	A licensee must ensure that written prescriptions, transaction records, compounding records and repackaging records for all drugs that have been dispensed, compounded or repackaged are: a. filed systematically; and b. retained for at least two years past the completion of drug therapy with regard to the prescription or for 42 months (3.5 years), from the date of first fill, whichever is the longest period.	Records/ invoices must be readily available on the premises and kept in a manner that permits auditing.	NO	YES	YES
C Controlled drugs – Part I Examples: Adderall XR, Biphentin, Concerta, Dexedrine, Ritalin*	Drugs listed in Part I of the Schedule to Part G of the Food and Drug Regulations.	1. Name and address of patient 2. Name, initials and address of prescriber	No refills allowed if original prescription is verbal. If written, the original prescription may be repeated if the prescriber has indicated in writing the number of refills and the intervals between refills. Transfers not permitted.	a. filed systematically; and	Records must be readily available upon request.	YES	YES	NO
C Controlled drugs – Part II & III Examples: Anabolic Steroids, Barbiturates (except Pentobarbital and Secobarbital), Butorphanol*, Nubain	Drugs listed in Part II and III of the Schedule to Part G of the Food and Drug Regulations.	3. Name, quantity, and form of drug(s) 4. Directions for use 5. Name and initials of dispensing pharmacist or pharmacy technician	An original written or verbal prescription may only be refilled if the prescriber has authorized, verbally or in writing, the number of refills and the intervals between refills. Transfers not permitted.	b. retained for at least two years past the completion of drug therapy with regard to the prescription or for 42 months (3.5 years), from the date of first fill, whichever is the longest period.		NO	YES	YES
T Benzodiazepines and other targeted substances Examples: Apo-Oxazepam, Ativan, Clorazepate, Flurazepam Frisium, Lectopam, Mogadon, Restoril, Rivotril, Valium, Xanax	Drugs listed in the Schedule to the Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations.	6. Date 7. Prescription number 8. Number of refills (when permitted) must be indicated	An original written or verbal prescription may only be refilled if the prescriber has authorized, verbally or in writing, the number of times it may be refilled. Unfilled refills may be transferred – this applies only to drugs in this classification. Targeted substances can be transferred once only.	Prescriptions for narcotic and controlled drugs must be filed separately from other prescriptions.		NO	YES	YES
P PRESCRIPTION DRUGS Examples: antibiotics, antidepressants, antihypertensives, antipsychotics, bronchodilators, corticosteroids, oral contraceptives, oral hypoglycemics	All drugs on the Prescription Drug List of the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i> and Regulations. Drugs listed in Schedule 1 of the Alberta Regulation 66/2007 to the <i>Pharmacy and Drug Act</i> , Scheduled Drugs Regulation.		"PRN" is not acceptable authority for refilling any prescription.	Prescriptions for targeted substances do not have to be filed separately	Not a requirement per the <i>Food and Drugs Act</i> and its regulations	NO	YES	YES

*Prescriptions must be written on a Triplicate Prescription pad, please review *Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP) Information for the Prescriber and the Dispenser*: http://www.cpsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Information_for_prescribers_and_dispensers.pdf

**Please review *Ensuring safe and efficient communication of medication prescriptions*:

<https://pharmacists.ab.ca/sites/default/files/CommunicationOfMedicationPrescriptions.pdf>

***Pharmacy Technicians may accept verbal prescriptions for drugs on the Prescription Drug List.

This summary chart is a condensation of federal regulations concerning drugs in the Schedules to the *Food and Drugs Act* and *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and their regulations and has been compiled for your easy reference. For complete details, refer to the official legislation.