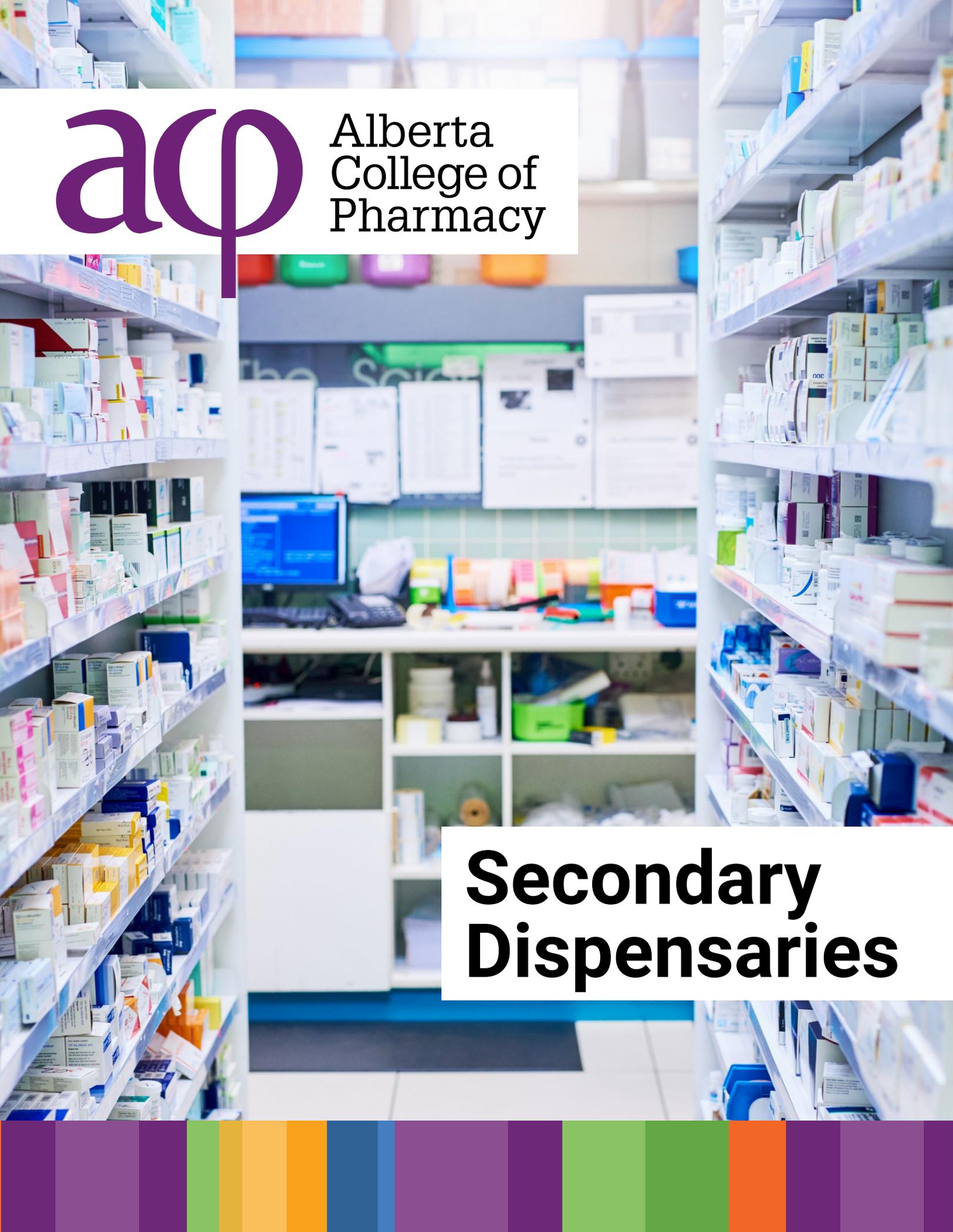




Alberta  
College of  
Pharmacy

The background of the slide is a photograph of a pharmacy. On the left and right sides, there are tall white shelves filled with various boxes and bottles of medication. In the center, there is a counter area with a computer monitor, a keyboard, and other pharmacy equipment. The lighting is bright and clinical.

# Secondary Dispensaries



As stated in the Pharmacy and Drug Act, all pharmacy services, including storing, compounding, dispensing, and selling of drugs, must only occur within a licensed pharmacy. Some of those services, like compounding, can involve space and equipment requirements that are difficult to accommodate within the existing dispensary of certain pharmacies. When additional space is required to meet the standards, the Alberta College of Pharmacy (ACP) allows pharmacies to request approval for a secondary dispensary.

#### **What is a secondary dispensary?**

A secondary dispensary is an additional space that acts as an extension of the primary dispensary, and may be used for storing, compounding, repackaging, or preparing drugs for sale. A space is considered a secondary dispensary if pharmacy personnel must leave the primary dispensary and go through a non-dispensary area (e.g., patient services area, stockroom) to access the secondary dispensary.

#### **Who is eligible to apply for a secondary dispensary?**

Only community pharmacies that do not have a compounding and repackaging licence and existed on the premises prior to March 3, 2018 (the date that compounding standards were approved by Council) are eligible to apply.

#### **Where can a secondary dispensary be located?**

A secondary dispensary must be located in close proximity to the primary dispensary, allowing the licensee to personally supervise operations at both locations. The secondary dispensary must be in the same physical structure as the primary dispensary, or within the same complex of buildings as the primary dispensary and connected by a parking lot.

#### **What size of secondary dispensary is allowed?**

The secondary dispensary must be of adequate size and have the equipment necessary to safely and effectively perform the pharmacy services stated in the application process. The primary dispensary and prescription department must meet minimum legislative size requirements independent of the secondary dispensary.

### **Who can access the secondary dispensary?**

No public access is permitted at the secondary dispensary, and any medications stored, compounded, packaged, or prepared for sale in the secondary dispensary cannot be sent directly to patients from that location. Prepared medications must be returned to the primary dispensary before being dispensed to a patient.

### **Can records be stored at the secondary dispensary?**

Once a secondary dispensary is approved, records can be stored there with no further approval. All records must be managed in accordance with legislation. You must [apply for off-site storage](#) if you wish to store any records outside of the primary or secondary dispensary.

### **Is there anything else to know about secondary dispensaries?**

All secondary dispensaries must have an appropriate security system in place to secure drugs against theft, loss, or diversion and restrict access to authorized personnel. If there is publicly accessible space between the primary and secondary dispensaries, the pharmacy must ensure the security of drugs and records when they are moved between locations. The appropriate level of supervision must be in place for restricted activities.

### **How can a pharmacy apply for a secondary dispensary?**

Licensees must apply to ACP in advance to receive approval for a secondary dispensary by completing an [application for renovation](#).





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