



# College of Pharmacists of Manitoba

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## **RN(EP) (Extended Practice Registered Nurses) and NP (Nurse Practitioners) have expanded prescriptive authority**

The New Classes of Practitioners Regulations under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* provides Extended Practice Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners the authority to prescribe medications containing controlled substances, with the following exclusions: heroin, cannabis, opium, coca and anabolic steroids (except testosterone). However, RN(EP)s and NPs **must first be** authorized by their provincial regulatory body, the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. CRNM requires successful completion of an educational program on safe and legal prescribing practices for narcotic and controlled drugs in order to be eligible for authorization.

RNEPs/NPs that do not have the authority to prescribe narcotics and controlled drugs will have a condition placed on their practicing licence. When they have completed the requirements set by CRNM, the condition will be removed. A weblink to the CRNM Nurse Check directory is provided on the CPhM website under "Pharmacy Practice" and then "[Additional Prescriber Information](#)".

### **Collaborative Practice**

The prescribing authority of a RN(EP)/NP continues to require the prescription to include **“the therapeutic indication”** and must be **“based on assessment obtained through direct client contact.”** There have been reported incidents where the RN(EP)/NP is using the term “symptom control” as the treatment/diagnosis. **This is not acceptable** and the pharmacist must contact the RN(EP)/NP for further information.

The Manitoba Prescribing Practices Program (M3P) has included a "Therapeutic Indication" section on the M3P forms to accommodate for the authority of a Registered Nurse - Extended Practice (RNEP)/Nurse Practitioner (NP) to prescribe narcotic and controlled drugs.

**The role and importance of the pharmacist in knowing the treatment goal is critical in support of patient safety and patient care.** Although the competency for RN(EP)s/NPs requires the application of knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, pharmacotherapeutics and pharmacodynamics when selecting and prescribing drugs, their knowledge cannot be equated to that of a licensed pharmacist. As a result, the collaborative practice between the RN(EP)/NP and the pharmacist to confirm the right medication and dosage is critical.

Further information regarding RN(EP)/NP practice and a listing of RN(EP)s/NPs in the province may be found on the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba website in the [CRNM Nurse Check Directory](#). Pharmacists may also call the CPhM office for further information.

Manitoba Health accepts applications for EDS part 3 drugs from RN(EP)s/NPs for all medications including narcotics, controlled drugs and benzodiazepines and other targeted substances.

*\*In Manitoba, the term Nurse Practitioner (NP) is synonymous with Registered Nurse Extended Practice (RN(EP)).*