



Friday Five

August 10, 2018

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EpiPen® Shortage

On July 30, 2018, [Health Canada and Pfizer Canada announced](#) that the shortage of EpiPen® auto-injectors (0.3 mg/0.3 ml) at pharmacies in Canada is expected to worsen during the month of August.

There are currently no alternative epinephrine auto-injectors available in Canada. EpiPen ®and EpiPen Jr® auto-injectors are used to deliver an emergency treatment of epinephrine to patients who are at risk or have a history of life-threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis).

Pharmacists are encouraged to manage EpiPen® and EpiPen Jr® inventory supplies carefully. Pharmacists are also encouraged to contact other pharmacies in their area should they require EpiPen® for a patient, as most regions of the province report having adequate stock to fulfill patient demands through the end of August. At this time, and due to potential safety concerns, the College does not recommend the compounding of a substitute product by pharmacies in

Professional Development Opportunities

27th Annual Provincial Palliative Care Conference

[September 13 & 14, 2018](#)

Opioid Replacement Therapy 101 Introduction to Clinical Practice

[September 13 & 14, 2018](#)
[November 22 & 23, 2018](#)

Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg Presents:

[The 22nd Annual Bug Day](#)

October 16, 2018

Online Programs:

[Oral-Systemic Health Education for Non-Dental Healthcare Providers](#)

Manitoba.

Up-to-date information regarding all drug shortages can be found on the [Drug Shortages Canada](#) website.

Possible Link Found Between Methadone-containing Drugs and the Potential Risk of Serious Harm to Children Breastfed by Mothers on Methadone Treatment

Health Canada recently published a Summary Safety Review on Methadose and Metadol-D assessing the potential risk of serious harm in children exposed to methadone through breast milk. Pharmacists dispensing methadone or providing care for patients on methadone are strongly encouraged to read the Summary Safety Review which can be found on the Health Canada [website](#).

It is important that pharmacists continue to work collaboratively with both the methadone prescriber and patient to identify and assess the potential benefits and risks of breastfeeding while on methadone maintenance therapy.

As more information becomes available and other stakeholders consulted, the [Opioid Replacement Therapy Guidelines for Manitoba Pharmacists](#) will be reviewed and updated, as required.

Cannabis Regulations under the *Cannabis Act*

Regulations to support the *Cannabis Act* were published in the Canada Gazette, Part II, on July 11, 2018. The Cannabis Regulations and Industrial Hemp Regulations under the *Cannabis Act* establish rules and standards that will apply to the production, distribution, sale, importation and exportation of cannabis by federal licence holders. Both the *Cannabis Act* and regulations will come into effect on October 17, 2018.

Cannabis is currently regulated under the federal *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)*. Effective October 17, 2018, Cannabis will cease to be regulated under the CDSA, and will be regulated

[Ordering Lab Tests for Manitoba Pharmacists](#)

Visit www.cphm.ca for more information on [Expanded Scope of Practice](#) training.

[Self-Limiting Conditions Independent Study Program](#)

Visit www.cphm.ca for more information on [Expanded Scope of Practice](#) training.

All PD opportunities are listed on the College website under

[Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities](#)

under the *Cannabis Act* and Regulations.

Save the Date: CSHP National Annual General Meeting and Education Day

As part of CSHP (Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists) Manitoba Branch's 65th anniversary celebration, they will be hosting the [2018 CSHP National Annual General Meeting and Education Day](#).

Manitoba's own Patrick Fitch is the current National CSHP President and together with the Manitoba Branch members, they are extending this invitation to all pharmacy professionals to attend. The event will take place on Saturday, October 20, at the Delta Hotel in Winnipeg and registration opens in early September. Make sure to save the date and plan to attend.

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The *Friday Five* e-bulletin is published by the **College of Pharmacists of Manitoba** and is forwarded to every licenced pharmacist and pharmacy owner in the Province of Manitoba. Decisions of the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba regarding all matters such as regulations, drug-related incidents, etc., are published in the *Friday Five*. The College of Pharmacists of Manitoba therefore assumes that all pharmacists and pharmacy owners are aware of these matters.

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