



## Friday Five

April 18, 2019

### In this issue...

1. Pharmacy Technician Updates
2. Amended Preceptor Applicant Requirements
3. Duty to Report
4. Reminder to all Pharmacists: CPR and First Aid Certification Self-declared Expiry Date
5. Health Canada Update - Mifegymiso
6. Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

### Pharmacy Technician Updates

#### Pharmacy Technician Deadlines and PEBC Examination Dates

Pharmacy assistants pursuing status as a pharmacy technician through the PEBC Evaluating Exam and NAPRA Bridging Pathway (Option B) must complete and submit all requirements for listing by December 31, 2019.

The last administration of the PEBC Evaluating Exam was October 13, 2018, and pharmacy assistants who have not passed the Evaluating Examination will be required to complete a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician program (Option A) to become pharmacy technicians.

The NAPRA Bridging Education Program courses are available online through Selkirk College. The bridging courses must be completed before an assistant can undertake the Structured Practical Training (SPT) and Jurisprudence (JP) Exam. Therefore, the bridging courses should be completed in the first half of 2019, in order to provide sufficient time to complete the remaining requirements (SPT and JP exam) prior to

### Professional Development Opportunities

#### Opioid Replacement Therapy 101 Introduction to Clinical Practice

[April 25 & 26, 2019 \(Winnipeg\)](#)  
[June 20 & 21, 2019 \(Thompson\)](#)  
[September 13 & 14, 2019 \(Winnipeg\)](#)

#### University of Manitoba Opioid Survey

University of Manitoba is conducting an anonymous online survey of **pharmacists, orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and patients** regarding opioid prescribing and misuse by patients after ambulatory surgery. The survey is designed to assess our perceptions about opioid misuse and the feasibility of potential solutions. Please click on the [link](#) if you would like to participate.

the December 31, 2019, deadline.

The Summer PEBC Qualifying Exam will be available in Winnipeg on September 7 and 8, 2019, and the application deadline is June 7, 2019. Pharmacy assistants under Option B pathway must successfully pass the PEBC Qualifying Exam prior to the December 31, 2019, deadline.

CCAPP graduates after January 1, 2014, have five years immediately following their graduation to complete all the requirements to be listed as a technician. Students of a CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician program (Option A) who graduated before January 1, 2014, were required to be listed as a pharmacy technician with the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba (College) by January 1, 2019, and will be required to complete a CCAPP-accredited program a second time.

Please visit the [Pharmacy Technician page](#) of the College website for more information.

### Professional Development Deadlines for Pharmacy Technicians

The professional development (PD) requirement for pharmacy technicians is a minimum of 15 hours of learning activities completed between **June 1 and May 31 of each year**. Of these 15 hours, a minimum of five hours must be from accredited learning activities and the remaining 10 hours can be fulfilled by either accredited or non-accredited learning activities.

This year, the Manitoba Pharmacy Technician Conference will be held on Saturday, May 25, 2019. Attendees of the conference will be able to apply the CEUs obtained towards the current professional development year (2018/2019) **ONLY**. Although the technician renewal deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>, PD programs completed between May 15<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> would still be claimed for the 2018/2019 year. The pharmacy technician renewal application must be submitted prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> regardless if an applicant will complete their PD requirements between the renewal deadline and May 31<sup>st</sup>.

For convenience in maintaining professional development records, the College has provided

### Online Programs:

#### [Ordering Lab Tests for Manitoba Pharmacists](#)

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

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

Visit [www.cphm.ca](http://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](#)

a [Professional Development Log for Pharmacy Technicians template](#) (in Word form) that pharmacy technicians may use.

For more information on the Manitoba Pharmacy Technician Conference, please visit the Canadian Association of Pharmacy Technicians [website](#).

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## Amended Preceptor Applicant Requirements

On March 25, 2019, Council reviewed the existing guidelines for qualifications of a pharmacist applying to be a preceptor for a pharmacist intern or pharmacy technician applicant, as established by Council in 2014.

Council moved to amend and bolster those guidelines, which have now been amended to require that the:

1. Registrar will review the preceptor applicant's involvement in any current/active complaints matter, and/or whether the preceptor applicant is the subject of an investigation;
2. Preceptor applicant has not been found guilty of an offence under section 54 of *The Pharmaceutical Act (The Act)*, of which a Decision and Order of the Discipline Committee has been directed, pursuant to sections 54, 55, and 56 of *The Act*, within the past five years;
3. Registrar will review any decisions by the Complaints Committee against the preceptor applicant within the past two years, for consideration; and,
4. Preceptor applicant has been licensed in the province of Manitoba for a minimum of one year preceding the date of the application to be a preceptor.

Guidelines which remain in effect and unaltered include that the preceptor applicant:

1. is not on the conditional register;
2. has not voluntarily surrendered his/her registration or licence;
3. will not serve as a preceptor for immediate family members (including parents, children,

husbands, wives, aunts, uncles, grandparents, grandchildren, sisters, brothers and in-laws); and,

4. agrees to provide time for the purpose of assisting the intern and ensuring the competencies of the internship manual are being assessed and met.

Preceptors play an influential role as both an educator and role model to the pharmacist intern or pharmacy technician applicant. It is the responsibility of the preceptor to demonstrate sound professional judgment and knowledge of practice; a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. It is paramount that the policies and procedures in place at the practice site, and the knowledge and practice of the preceptor, meet an exemplary standard as they lead new pharmacy professionals into the practice of pharmacy in Manitoba.

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## Duty to Report

Pharmacists are in a unique position within the healthcare team, in that they are very easily accessible and often have regular direct contact with their patients. Based on this accessibility and direct contact, pharmacists can most often identify patients who are non-adherent with their prescribed treatment regimen. Consequences of non-adherence to medication treatment include: worsening of a disease or condition, increased comorbid diseases, increased health care costs, and increased risk for death. As such, pharmacists have a duty to report a non-adherent patient to the prescriber, particularly when the patient may present a risk to the public.

Examples of patients presenting as a risk to the public when non-adherent with their treatment regimen include the following:

- A diabetic bus driver who has been very sporadic with refilling anti-diabetic therapy, and perhaps has even not refilled anti-diabetic prescription treatments for months.

Patients exhibiting this type of potential non-adherent behavior require a pharmacist's intervention to further

inquire and identify the patient's reasons for non-adherence. This also presents an opportunity for pharmacists to provide education on disease management, treatment options and goals, and to specifically outline the risks of non-compliance. The prescriber must be informed to determine if the patient requires immediate assessment and if any therapeutic changes are to be implemented. A bus driver with uncontrolled glucose levels has the potential for blurred vision and shakiness, and/or diabetic coma, which could lead to potentially catastrophic outcomes.

- A teacher diagnosed with bipolar disorder who has not refilled their anti-psychotic therapy in over 6 months.

Again, the pharmacist must engage in conversation with the patient to understand the rationale for any extended absences from therapy, or observed non-adherence. The health care practitioner must also be informed, to determine if an in-person assessment is required, and/or the implementation of dose or therapy changes. Untreated mental health conditions may present considerable risk to the patient, as well as the public.

Pharmacists must employ a method for documenting discussions with patients and/or prescribers regarding non-adherence. This must also include an appropriate method of follow-up with the patient and prescriber to ensure further assessments have occurred, and the patient is using the most current and appropriate drug regimen. Ongoing dialogue and collaboration with both the patient and the prescriber is an essential requirement in preventing medication non-adherence and subsequent negative outcomes.

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### Reminder to all Pharmacists: CPR and First Aid Certification Self-declared Expiry Date

Please be reminded that in order for a pharmacist to maintain their authorization to administer drugs and vaccines by injection (regardless of the route of administration), the pharmacist **must possess and maintain** valid and current certification in CPR Level C

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or Level HCP and Emergency or Standard First Aid  
from an accredited training program.

It is the responsibility of every pharmacist to ensure that their certification in CPR Level C or HCP and Emergency or Standard First Aid requirements is kept current for the duration of the certification of authorization to administer drugs by injection. To facilitate this process, pharmacists may visit their member homepage and input the date of expiry of their CPR and Standard First Aid certification to ensure that they maintain their authorization to administer injections. **All pharmacists have until Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, to self-declare and/or update the expiry dates on their profiles.**

If a pharmacist with injection authorization does not have the required CPR and First Aid training, or has not maintained valid CPR and First Aid certification, the pharmacist must not administer injections, and must advise the College immediately. Authorization to administer injections will be cancelled until such time that the pharmacist is able to renew the certification.

As an additional reminder, the CPR and First-Aid training course must be in-person and recognized as an approved first aid training program by the [Workplace Safety and Health \(WSH\) Branch](#) of the Manitoba government. Please see the [College website](#) for more information.

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## Health Canada Update - Mifegymiso

On April 16, 2019, Health Canada updated the prescribing and patient information for Mifegymiso to remove the requirement for a prescriber to conduct an ultrasound prior to prescribing the drug for medical termination of a pregnancy. Previously, the Canadian monograph indicated that an ultrasound was required to confirm the gestational age and to rule out an ectopic pregnancy. Prescribers now have the flexibility to use their medical judgment on how to assess the gestational age and ectopic pregnancy.

This change addresses concerns that some patients may have been facing unnecessary barriers or delays in accessing this product. The product monograph still recommends an ultrasound when the gestational age

is uncertain or an ectopic pregnancy is suspected.

Mifegymiso should not be prescribed to patients who are more than nine weeks (63 days) pregnant or have an ectopic pregnancy.

As part of the update, the product monograph now includes the patient information card, which outlines important information for the patient such as where to go for emergency assistance. [The College Guideline for Pharmacists Dispensing Mifegymiso in Manitoba](#) has been updated to reflect this change. For more information, please see the [Health Canada update](#) and the latest version of the Mifegymiso [product monograph](#) .

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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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