Practice Direction
Prescribing

1.0 Scope and Objective:

1.1 Expected Outcome

This document is a practice direction by Council concerning prescribing by the licensed pharmacist through the authority of The Pharmaceutical Regulations to The Pharmaceutical Act and The Pharmaceutical Act.

1.2 Document Jurisdiction (Area of Practice)

All licensed pharmacists who prescribe a drug or medical device are expected to adhere to this practice direction.

1.3 Regulatory Authority Reference

Section 118 of The Pharmaceutical Regulations to the Pharmaceutical Act empowers the Council to create a practice direction for prescribing.

2.0 Practice Direction

2.1 A licensed pharmacist shall only prescribe a medication when it is in the patient’s best interest having considered the risks and benefits to the patient and other relevant factors specific to the situation.

2.2 A licensed pharmacist shall not prescribe a medication unless the intended use:

2.2.1 is an indication approved for use by Health Canada,

2.2.2 is considered to be best practice or accepted clinical practice in peer-reviewed clinical literature, or

2.2.3 is part of an approved research protocol

2.3 A licensed pharmacist shall only prescribe a drug or medical device for which they have the knowledge, skill, and judgment with regard to the drug/medical device and the condition for which it is prescribed.

2.4 A licensed pharmacist shall only prescribe a drug/medical device for a patient whom they have seen and assessed in person.
2.5 A licensed pharmacist who issues a prescription must reduce the prescription to writing in a clear, concise format that includes all required information.

2.6 Where the pharmacist performs a physical assessment that requires the use of medical equipment the pharmacist shall ensure that the equipment is in good working order.

2.7 A licensed pharmacist who issues a prescription shall conduct a patient assessment which includes but is not limited to the following: demographic information, signs and symptoms, laboratory or other test results, medical history, allergies, current medications, extent and results of previous treatment, pregnancy and lactation status (if applicable) and patient preferences.

2.8 A licensed pharmacist shall issue a prescription only after presenting the patient with the therapeutic alternatives and providing the patient with adequate information so that the patient can make an informed decision.

2.9 Documentation: A licensed pharmacist who issues a prescription must make and retain a record of:

2.9.1 The name and address of the patient
2.9.2 The date of birth of the patient
2.9.3 The name of the drug/device prescribed
2.9.4 The strength, if applicable, and quantity of the medication
2.9.5 The directions for use
2.9.6 The number of refills
2.9.7 the name of the licensed pharmacist issuing the prescription
2.9.8 the date of the prescription
2.9.9 the treatment goal, diagnosis or clinical indication for issuing the prescription
2.9.10 the rationale for the prescribing decision
2.9.11 the follow up plan
2.9.12 other health professionals notified

3.0 Compliance Adjudication

3.1 All documentation must be readily accessible and open to regulatory review
4.0 Appendices

Not applicable

A Practice Direction is a written statement made by Council for the purposes of giving direction to members and owners about the conduct of their practice or pharmacy operations. Compliance with practice directions is required under the Pharmaceutical Act.

The process for development, consultation, implementation, appeal and review is been published on the College website.

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