Practice Direction
Sale of NAPRA Schedule 2 Drugs
(non-prescription, pharmacy only sale)

1.0 Scope and Objective:

1.1 Expected Outcome

This document is a practice direction of Council concerning the sale of drugs listed in “Schedule 2 of the Manual” through the authority of The Pharmaceutical Regulations to The Pharmaceutical Act and The Pharmaceutical Act.

1.2 Document Jurisdiction (Area of Practice)

Schedule 2 drugs can only be distributed from the dispensary of a licensed community pharmacy as described under section 84(1) of the regulations.

1.3 Regulatory Authority Reference

In this practice direction, the term Schedule 2 drugs means all the drugs listed in section 84(1) of the regulations which includes:

a) any drug listed in Schedule 2 of the Manual; or
b) a drug with pseudoephedrine as the single active ingredient (refer to quantity limits in section 84(2)).

2.0 Practice Direction

2.1 Schedule 2 drugs may be sold without a prescription and are available only from a licensed pharmacist in an area of the dispensary with no public access and no opportunity for patient selection.

2.2 Schedule 2 drugs must only be sold in a licensed community pharmacy.
2.3 The sale of Scheduled 2II drugs are not permitted for online sale, as the pharmacist does not have the opportunity to conduct an in-person assessment, or assist with the patient’s self-selection.

2.4 A licensed pharmacist must enter into dialogue with the patient or designate seeking to purchase a Schedule 2 drug or treat a condition using a Schedule 2 drug.

When engaging in a dialogue, the licensed pharmacist should gather specific information such as:

2.4.1 the condition or symptom(s) to be treated;
2.4.2 any previous history of complaint given as well as length of present symptoms;
2.4.3 current and relevant information regarding disease state(s), allergies and/or sensitivities;
2.4.4 current medications; and/or
2.4.5 other medications or therapies previously tried.

2.5 Dialogue must occur in a confidential manner.

2.6 A pharmacist may need to access and review the patient’s health record in the Drug Program Information Network (DPIN) for further information or clarification before recommending a therapy.

2.7 The licensed pharmacist will enable the patient to make a choice and will discuss:

2.7.1 if recommending a drug therapy, directions for proper use and length of therapy, common adverse effects, and expected response or outcome or benefit(s);
2.7.2 non-drug treatments, if any;
2.7.3 follow-up with the licensed pharmacist or another health care professional if there is no improvement or if symptoms change or worsen;
2.7.4 the need for referral to another health care professional if the condition or symptom(s) are deemed to be serious in nature; if unsure of the diagnosis or if the situation cannot be appropriately treated with non-prescription drugs; and
2.7.5 the need for further dialogue with the patient directly (if a designate is involved or if a drug product is being delivered).
2.8 A licensed pharmacist will document the patient interaction and any recommendation(s) in the patient’s health record, if such documentation is deemed appropriate.

2.9 A licensed pharmacist shall not sell (distribute) or provide an Exempted Codeine Preparation, as defined under section 36 of the Narcotic Control Regulations under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, except as permitted by the Exempted Codeine Preparations Practice Direction.

2.10 A licensed pharmacist may refuse the sale of a Schedule 2 Drug.

3.0 Compliance Adjudication

All documentation must be readily accessible and open to regulatory review.

4.0 Appendices

Not applicable