

**1) My patients are trying to stockpile their medications. What should I do? Is the one-month prescription limit still in tact?**

Effective May 11, Manitobans who have prescriptions for long-term medications will be able to fill them as per their prescriber's directions up to a three-month supply, if the drug is not affected by shortages.

To clarify, only drugs currently listed in short supply on the federal government's drug shortages website will be subject to the one-month fill limit.

We also must remind pharmacists that you are the stewards of your drug supply. We are aware that some patients may request more than three months of their medication but it is important to use your professional judgement when dispensing.

**2) Can I accept a faxed M3P form from a prescriber for all M3P prescriptions?**

Yes. All M3P prescriptions may temporarily be faxed from prescribers directly to the pharmacy of the patient's choice in accordance with the M3P guidance document until the COVID-19 situation resolves. For the M3P-related documents, please log in to the members-only portal to view them.

CPhM, CPSM, and MHSAL continue to work on matters relating to the M3P program and specific patient populations. Please watch for more information in the coming days.

**3) Do I need to assess a patient in-person in order to prescribe a drug or medical device within my scope of practice?**

No. Pharmacists may conduct in-person or face-to-face assessments in accordance with the Prescribing Practice Direction. Additionally, an exemption has been granted by Council to permit pharmacists to complete a telephone assessment, when appropriate, when all other requirements in the Prescribing Practice Direction are met. This exemption will remain in-place until May 15, 2020 and will be reassessed if required.

**4) Can my patients on Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) receive increased take home doses in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak?**

Please refer to the CPSM- CPhM Guidance Document for patients on opioid agonist therapy with methadone or suboxone [here](#).

**5) Have the timelines for the implementation of the NAPRA Model Standards for Non-Sterile Compounding changed due to COVID-19?**

Yes. The implementation deadline for the implementation of Phase I of the NAPRA Model Standards for Non-sterile compounding has now been postponed until October 1, 2020. As a result, the implementation timelines are as follows:

Phase I implementation deadline: October 1, 2020

Phase II implementation deadline: October 1, 2020

Phase III implementation deadline: January 1, 2021

Phase IV implementation deadline: April 1, 2021

**6) I am a pharmacy manager. How do I temporarily change my pharmacy's hours of operation in response to COVID-19?**

A pharmacy manager can log onto their manager profile on the College website and update the hours of operation. Each pharmacy must complete this change online, and this will serve as the only required correspondence with the College required. Please also notify your patients of your change of hours of operation through signage (eg. Primary Pharmacy entrance, dispensary counter, etc.), updating your website, and updating your phone messaging system.

When you are determining your reduced operating hours, it is important to remember Section 34(2) of The Pharmaceutical Act:

34(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection 30(1), an applicant for a community pharmacy licence must provide evidence satisfactory to the registrar that

- (a) the facility will be accessible to the public;
- (b) the hours of operation will meet the needs of the community served by the pharmacy as determined by an hours-of-operation policy set by the council;
- (c) the facility will be staffed and managed by members who have the requisite knowledge, skill and judgment to operate a community pharmacy; and
- (d) the facility will comply with practice directions respecting community pharmacies.

The pharmacy's hours of operation they must meet or exceed 25 hours a week over a 4-day period.

**7) I am a pharmacy manager, and I am facing a pharmacist shortage at my pharmacy. Where can I turn?**

Please check Pharmacists Manitoba's relief list, which can be found [here](#). Pharmacists who are available to provide relief work and would like to be added to the list should contact Pharmacists Manitoba via email at [info@pharmacistsmb.ca](mailto:info@pharmacistsmb.ca).

**8) What are my ethical responsibilities during the COVID-19 outbreak?**

Please refer to [CPhM's Pharmacy Professional's Duty during an Emergency, Disaster or Pandemic Ethical Framework](#) document.

**9) Several provinces have now declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. How can I prepare, if a state of emergency is declared by the Minister of Health in Manitoba?**

Pharmacists are encouraged to review the Emergency Preparedness Resource Kit for Pharmacists. A link to this document can be found [here](#).

Continuity of care for your patients is essential. Pharmacy managers should consider partnering with another pharmacy as part of their emergency planning process, if an emergency closure is required.

**10) Can I access my patient's information while working remotely?**

As a health information trustee, you must be compliant with the Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) and the rights of your patients. The Personal Health Information Act - A Brief Summary for Health Professionals can be found [here](#). Please use your professional judgment and ensure compliance prior to accessing any patient information.

**11) One of my patients has COVID-19 and was in the pharmacy recently. What do I need to do? Do I need to be tested?**

Please refer to the COVID-19 Screening Tool available [here](#) or Contact Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 (toll-free) immediately.