



## Practice Direction: Conscientious Objection

### 1.0 Scope and Objective:

#### 1.1 Expected Outcome

This document is a practice direction by Council concerning conscientious objection by pharmacists through the authority of The Pharmaceutical Regulations to *The Pharmaceutical Act* and *The Pharmaceutical Act (The Act)*.

#### 1.2 Document Jurisdiction (Area of Practice)

Compliance is expected from all licensed pharmacists in Manitoba practice.

#### 1.3 Regulatory Authority Reference

Sections 6(3) of *The Act* and statements VII and IX of the *Code of Ethics* empowers Council to create a practice direction for professional obligations by pharmacists when exercising conscientious objection.

#### 1.4 Terms of Reference

*Code of Ethics Statement VII* - Pharmacists shall hold the health and safety of each patient to be of primary consideration.

*Code of Ethics Statement IX* - Pharmacists shall respect the rights of patients to receive healthcare. Arrange practice to ensure that patients are able to obtain services from another pharmacist or pharmacy in a reasonable timeframe if unable to provide the pharmacy service or unwilling to provide the service due to conscientious objection.

### 2.0 Practice Direction

**2.1** A pharmacist is permitted to object to the provision of a certain pharmacy product or service if it appears to conflict with the pharmacist's view of morality or religious beliefs and if the pharmacist believes that his or her conscience will be harmed by providing the product or service.

**2.2** A pharmacist who knows they will object, as a matter of conscience, to providing a particular pharmacy product or service must:

**2.2.1** Immediately provide a written declaration stating the basis of their objection to their current pharmacy manager, or any subsequent pharmacy manager, and the declaration must be well in advance of a possibility of receiving a request for the pharmacy product or service in question.

**2.2.2** Not describe the reason or basis of the objection to the patient and guide the patient or prescriber to a pharmacist or pharmacy that can provide the desired service or product.

**2.2.3** Not to influence or attempt to influence the patient's opinion when conveying the required guidance in 2.2.2 to the patient.

**2.2.4** Not impede or block access to information, care or services.

- 2.2.5** Fulfill their duty to care to the patient in a manner that is non-judgmental, continuous and non-discriminatory.
- 2.2.6** Take steps to ensure continuity of care for the patient which includes:
  - 2.2.6.1** Expediting the provision of all relevant drug records to the prescriber and/or other pharmacist; and
  - 2.2.6.2** Continue to provide pharmacy services unrelated to the objectionable product or service unless the patient requests otherwise or until an effective transfer of care is completed.

### **3.0 Documentation**

- 3.1** Documentation of refusal and referral is to be recorded in a readily retrievable manner either electronically or in written form.

### **4.0 Compliance Adjudication**

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

### **5.0 Appendices**

Not applicable

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*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.*

Development Source:	Standards of Practice Committee
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