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Manitoba Prescribing Practices Program

Prescriptions from other Provinces

From time to time Manitoba pharmacists are asked to dispense medications that require a Manitoba Prescribing Practices Program (M3P) prescription form but these prescriptions are written by an authorized practitioner from another province who does not have the appropriate form. On first reading, Regulation 20(2) requires that all prescriptions for sales reportable narcotics and other M3P scheduled products be presented on an M3P form.

Excerpt from *The Pharmaceutical Regulations*:

- 20(2) No pharmacist shall fill a prescription for a drug listed in a schedule that has been made by the council and the College of Physicians and Surgeons unless
- (a) the prescription is dated and signed by an authorized practitioner on a form approved by council;
 - (b) the pharmacist has taken reasonable steps to satisfy himself or herself that
 - (i) the prescription has been given by an authorized practitioner registered and entitled to practice in a province or territory of Canada,
 - (ii) the prescription form clearly and accurately sets out the name and dosage form of the drug, the quantity to be dispensed, and directions for use, including intervals at which the drug is to be taken,
 - (iii) all patient and prescription information required by section 18 has been included on the prescription form,
 - (iv) the drug that has been prescribed is within the authorized practitioner's scope of practice, and
 - (v) the drug that has been prescribed is consistent with standards of care and patient safety;
 - (c) only one drug is prescribed on the prescription form; and
 - (d) the prescription is presented to the pharmacist within three days of the date set out on the prescription form by the authorized practitioner.

The regulation describes the requirements that need to be met for a prescription written by a Manitoba authorized practitioner. Since the inception of the "triplicate prescription program" in 1990 pharmacists have used their professional judgment when filling out of province prescriptions. This ability has been re-enforced by a recent **Council decision to permit pharmacists to fill prescriptions for medications covered under the M3P program on forms that are in use in the province or territory where the practitioner resides**. Prescriptions written by authorized practitioners in other provinces and territories need only meet the requirements in place in their jurisdiction for the prescription to be filled in Manitoba.

Although the prescription may be legally filled, pharmacists should be certain that the order is written by a licensed physician, dentist or veterinary surgeon qualified and permitted to prescribe the drugs on the M3P schedule. The prescription still needs to meet the criteria that it be consistent with standards of care and patient safety and is within the authorized practitioner's scope of practice as required by section 20(2)(b)(iv) and (v).

Specialized prescription forms for narcotics and controlled drugs being used in other provinces:

- British Columbia - two copy special form for the same drugs covered in Manitoba with the exception that secobarbital and nabilone are not covered in B.C.
- Alberta - triplicate form for "sales reportable" narcotics, butalbital and methylphenidate and combination products containing codeine.
- Saskatchewan - no special form required for the Saskatchewan Prescription Review Program. However, verbal orders are not allowed for any of the products covered by this program which includes most drugs listed under the CDSA and benzodiazepines. (MPhA Newsletter - July, 2006)
- Ontario - no special form or program
- Quebec - no special form or program
- New Brunswick - no special form or program
- Nova Scotia - triplicate form for all narcotic and controlled medications
- P.E.I. - no special form or program
- Newfoundland & Labrador - tamper Resistant Prescription forms for "sales-reportable" narcotics, "sales-reportable" controlled drugs anorexiant, amobarital and butalbital containing products.