

GUIDELINES

Guidelines for the Distribution of Medication Samples by Pharmacists

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A medication sample is defined as a trial package of medication distributed to the pharmacist without cost. It would not include “free or bonus goods” provided as part of a larger purchase.

A pharmacist may dispense sample medication pursuant to a prescription, labeled in compliance with the rules governing labeling in Prince Edward Island and may charge a professional fee but not charge for the cost of the medication. The pharmacist must inform the patient when medication samples are being dispensed.

Where the medication sample contains a Schedule I drug (as defined in Canada’s National Drug Scheduling System), a prescription is required for distribution to the patient.

Distribution to patients of sample medication containing Schedule II, III or unscheduled drugs does not require a prescription. The distribution must be done however, in compliance with the conditions for sale set out in “*Canada’s National Drug Scheduling System*” and the labeling requirements under the Regulations to the *Food and Drugs Act*. Without further packaging or labeling, there should be no charge for distributing the manufacturer’s packaged sample of non-prescription drugs.