

Pharmacists' Scope of Practice in Canadian Jurisdictions — Effective June 2019

SCOPE OF PRACTICE		Prescribing In The Absence of An Existing Prescription					Prescribing When There Is An Existing Prescription			Administering: Includes Multiple Routes (Parenteral and Non-Parenteral)	Lab Tests		
		Initiating A Prescription	Initiating A Rx Within A Formal Collaborative Practice Agreement/Environment	Initiating A Rx Under Delegation/Collective Prescription	Initiating A Rx For Specified Conditions/Circumstances	Prescribing For An Interim Supply	Prescribing A New Drug In Emergency Circumstances	Adapting: Change In Dose, Formulation, Regimen, Duration, Route	Therapeutic Substitution		Renew/Continue A Rx For Continuing Care	Order Lab Tests	Interpret Lab Tests
Province/Territory	AB	✓ ⁺				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ^{+Δ}	✓	✓
	BC				✓	✓		✓ ^Δ	✓ ^Δ	✓ ^Δ	✓ ^{+Δ}		✓ ^Δ
	CF		✓*	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓*	✓*
	MB		✓ ^{+Δ●}		✓ ⁺		✓ ^Δ	✓	P [■]	✓	✓ ^{+Δ}	✓ ^{+Δ○}	✓ ^{Δ○}
	NB		✓ [●]		✓ ⁺	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ^{+Δ}	I	I ^Δ
	NL				✓ ⁺	✓ ⁺		✓ ⁺	✓ ⁺	✓ ⁺	✓ ^{+Δ}		
	NS		✓ [●]		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ^{+Δ}	✓ ⁺	✓
	NT									✓			
	NU												
	ON			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓ ^{+Δ}		
	PE				✓ ⁺		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ^{+Δ}	I ⁺	I ⁺
	QC			✓	✓ ⁺			✓ ⁺	✓ ^{+Δ}	✓	✓ ^{+Δ}	✓ ^Δ	✓ ^Δ
	SK		✓ ^{+●}		✓	✓	✓	✓ ^{+Δ●}	✓ ^{+●}	✓	✓ ^{+Δ}	✓ ^Δ	✓ ^Δ
YK							✓	✓	✓	✓ ^Δ		✓	

KEY	
(Blank cells denote activities that are not under current consideration, or not referenced in the jurisdiction of materials reviewed)	
✓	Established in legislation and regulation or DND policy
P	Proposed legislation or agreement in principle or legislation passed but regulations needed before implementation
I	Legal authorization received, but infrastructure/framework required to fully implement this activity not yet in place
+	Additional formal training/authorization from regulator required
Δ	Further limitations on types/classes of medication, patient groups or circumstances exist
*	Under delegation for the Canadian Forces (CF)
●	Prescribing only within a formal collaborative practice agreement/environment
○	Currently being phased-in
■	Hospital practice only in Manitoba



Table two: Definitions used to describe the pharmacists' scope of practice

*Note: Authorized prescriber includes medical doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners and any other regulated healthcare professional who is authorized to prescribe and is practising within their professional scope.

GROUP	CATEGORY	TERM & DEFINITION
Prescribing in the absence of an existing prescription		Prescribing that is based on assessment of the patient's condition and judgement by the pharmacist. The pharmacist is not in possession of an original prescription from an authorized prescriber. The pharmacist is responsible for decisions about the clinical management including prescribing a drug, but ensures collaboration with the patient's other healthcare providers. The pharmacist has met and practices in accordance with the requirements set by the pharmacy regulatory authority (PRA). Requirements may include but are not limited to registration with the PRA for additional prescribing authorization or prescribing in a collaborative practice or prescribing when a diagnosis is provided.
	Initiating a prescription	Generating a new prescription for a prescription drug where the pharmacist is responsible for the assessment of patients and the decision made about the drug and the clinical management required. Prescribing authority may be restricted by the pharmacist's specialty and competency, but not to specific medical conditions/circumstances outlined in legislation or PRA standards/directives/guidelines. While it is expected that pharmacists will only prescribe within a collaborative practice relationship/environment, a formal written agreement or approval of the practice environment by the PRA is not required.
	Initiating a Rx within a formal collaborative practice agreement/environment	Generating a new prescription for a prescription drug when the collaborative practice environment has been approved by the PRA and/or a written collaborative agreement exists. The pharmacist is responsible for the assessment of patients and the decision made about the drug and the clinical management required in collaboration with an authorized prescriber. The prescribing may be restricted by the parameters of the collaborative agreement or the protocols of the collaborative environment, but not to specific medical conditions/circumstances outlined in legislation or PRA standards/directives/guidelines.
	Initiating a Rx under delegation/collective prescription	The pharmacist is authorized to generate a new prescription for a prescription drug only through delegation or in accordance with a collective prescription. The delegation/collective prescription provides the pharmacist with authorization to prescribe according to the conditions of the delegation/collective prescription, but this activity is not considered part of the independent scope of practice of the pharmacist.
	Initiating a prescription for specified conditions/circumstances	Generating a new prescription for a prescription drug for medical conditions or circumstances which have been approved by the PRA and are outlined in legislation or PRA standards/directives/guidelines. These may include but are not limited to emergency contraception, smoking cessation, minor/common ailments, self-diagnosed conditions, previously diagnosed conditions, conditions that do not require a diagnosis, preventative diseases.
	Interim supply	Prescribing a limited supply of a prescription drug that has been previously prescribed, and is necessary to meet the immediate need of a patient, in the absence of an original prescription.
	Emergency circumstances	Prescribing a new prescription drug, in the absence of an existing prescription, when there is an immediate need for drug therapy and in the professional judgement of the pharmacist, it is not reasonable for the patient to seek emergency healthcare elsewhere and there is a risk to the patient's health if immediate treatment is not provided e.g. asthma attack.

Prescribing when there is an existing prescription (e.g. Rx on file in the pharmacy if renewing)		<p>Prescribing for the purpose of optimizing care or continuing care based on assessment of the patient's condition and judgement by the pharmacist. The pharmacist is in possession of an original prescription from an authorized prescriber. The pharmacist is responsible for the prescribing, but ensures collaboration with the patient's primary and other healthcare providers. The pharmacist has met and practices in accordance with the requirements set by the PRA.</p>
	Adapting a prescription	<p>Modifying or altering an existing prescription with respect to the dose, dosage form, dosage regimen, route, or duration to optimize therapy.</p>
	Therapeutic Substitution	<p>Substituting a prescribed drug with a different chemical entity that has or is expected to have an equivalent therapeutic effect.</p>
	Renew/Continue	<p>Renew or continue an existing prescription for the purpose of continuing therapy.</p>
Administering a drug		<p>Administering a drug (substance) by parenteral or non-parenteral routes.</p>
Order a lab test		<p>Ordering a laboratory analysis for the purpose of managing drug therapy.</p>
Interpret a lab test		<p>Interpreting laboratory results for the purpose of managing drug therapy.</p>
+— Additional formal training authorization from regulator required		<p>The pharmacist is required by the PRA to undergo and demonstrate completion of a training program approved by the PRA and/or must receive additional authorization from the PRA prior to undertaking these activities. This could include additional requirements for approved injection training program, additional prescribing authority, extended or advanced practice designations, or an indication on the licence that additional training has been completed. This only includes training over and above that required for licensure. In other words, if training is mandatory for licensure, it is not noted in the chart.</p>
△ — Further limitations on types/classes of medication, patient groups or circumstances exist		<p>The pharmacist's ability to perform the activity is restricted to certain patient groups, certain types/classes of medications, certain medical conditions or certain situations (e.g. therapeutic substitution only in situations of drug shortages in Quebec, restrictions on age for administration of vaccines in most provinces, etc.).</p>