



Effective March 26, 2020, the College Board has [approved amendments](#) to the PODSA Bylaws and HPA Bylaws Community Pharmacy Standards of Practice, as well as consequential amendments to related Professional Practice Policies (PPP-66 and PPP-67).

Temporary Authorization for Controlled Drugs and Substances	Regulation Amendment	Original prescription required?
<p><b>Verbal authorizations</b></p> <p>Permits prescribers to verbally prescribe a <b>new prescription</b> or <b>refill an existing prescription*</b> for controlled substances listed as <a href="#">Schedule 1A</a> under the <a href="#">Drug Schedules Regulation</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">PODSA bylaw section 19(6)</a> now includes:</p> <p><b><i>(6.1) Despite subsection (6), a registrant may dispense drugs included in the controlled prescription program upon receipt of a verbal prescription from a practitioner if doing so is permitted under a section 56 exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. The pharmacy must receive the original prescription form from the practitioner as soon as reasonably possible.</i></b></p> <p>Pharmacist must make a written record of the verbal order as outlined in section 6(7) Community Standards of Practice.</p> <p>Written record MUST include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmacist’s signature or initials.</li> <li>• Name of practitioner providing the verbal order.</li> <li>• Practitioners College identification number.</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p> <p><b><i>The pharmacy must receive the original prescription form from the practitioner as soon as reasonably possible.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Faxing prescriptions</b></p> <p>Permits pharmacists to dispense prescriptions received by facsimile transmission for a drug referred to on the <a href="#">Controlled Prescription Drug List</a> in exceptional circumstances,</p>	<p><a href="#">HPA bylaw Community Standards of Practice section 7(3)</a> amended to:</p> <p>(3) A registrant must not dispense a prescription authorization received by facsimile transmission for a drug referred to on the Controlled Prescription Drug List, <b>except in a public health emergency declared by the provincial health officer. In a public health emergency, the pharmacy must receive</b></p> <p><b>a) a completed copy of the Controlled Prescription Program form</b></p> <p><b>b) the original form by mail* as soon as reasonably possible.</b></p>	<p>Yes, the pharmacy must receive <b><i>the original form by mail* as soon as reasonably possible.</i></b></p> <p><i>*Note: Any method by which a prescriber can safely provide the original form to the pharmacy is appropriate</i></p>
<p><b>Transferring prescriptions</b></p> <p>Permit pharmacies to transfer prescriptions for controlled drugs and substances to another pharmacy if requested to do so.</p>	<p><a href="#">HPA bylaw Community Pharmacy Standards of Practice section 8(3)(a)</a> now includes:</p> <p><b><i>(3.1) Despite section 3(a), a registrant may transfer a prescription for a controlled drug substance if the transfer is permitted under a section 56 exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.</i></b></p>	<p>The original prescription is not required by the pharmacy requesting the transfer.</p>
<p><b>Delivery by pharmacy employees</b></p> <p>Permits pharmacy employees to deliver controlled substances on behalf of a pharmacist to patients at their homes or alternate locations.</p>	<p>Under <a href="#">Health Canada’s temporary exemptions</a> for prescriptions of controlled substances <b><i>“permit pharmacy employees to deliver prescriptions of controlled substances to patient’s homes or locations where they may be (i.e. self-isolating).”</i></b></p> <p>Any individual who delivers a controlled substance on behalf of a pharmacist must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deliver the controlled substance to the individual identified in the prescription (or to a person responsible for that individual’s care);</li> <li>2. Obtain in writing a note** from the pharmacist identifying the name of the individual effecting the delivery, the name and quantity of the controlled substance to be delivered, and the place of the delivery;</li> <li>3. Have the above note as well as a copy of this exemption** while effecting the delivery.</li> </ol>	<p>-</p>



Temporary Authorization for Controlled Drugs and Substances	Regulation Amendment	Original prescription required?
<p><b>Delivery of Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) by non-pharmacists</b></p> <p>NEW (April 6, 2020)</p> <p>Pharmacists may authorize regulated health professionals and pharmacy employees to deliver Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT).</p> <p><i>Permanent amendment: Pharmacists can <u>authorize</u> delivery of OAT to a patient if they feel it is safe, appropriate and in the best interest of the patient, as per <a href="#">recent amendment to PPP-71</a>. Before delivery, confirm with patient if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or self-isolating. Practice physical distancing while delivering to the patient.</i></p>	<p><b><u>Temporary amendments to Professional Practice Policy-71: Delivery of Opioid Agonist Treatment (PPP-71)</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pharmacists may authorize regulated health professionals to deliver OAT, if they have the scope and competence to assess the patient and witness the ingestion of OAT (where required);</li> <li>2. Pharmacists may authorize pharmacy employees to deliver OAT to a patient on the pharmacist's behalf. <b>This authorization should be reserved for exceptional circumstances where it is not possible for a pharmacist or regulated health professional to deliver the OAT drug.</b></li> </ol> <p>The following additional requirements set out by Health Canada's temporary exemption to the CDSA, must also be met:</p> <p>(C) Any individual who delivers a controlled substance on behalf of a pharmacist must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the controlled substance to the individual identified in the prescription (or to a person responsible for that individual's care) <b>Note: At this time, as per PPP-71 Delivery of Opioid Agonist Treatment, OAT can only be <u>delivered directly to the patient</u>, and cannot be left with any other person;</b></li> <li>• Obtain in writing a note from the pharmacist identifying the name of the individual effecting the delivery, the name and quantity of the controlled substance to be delivered, and the place of delivery; and,</li> <li>• Have the above note as well as a copy of this exemption while effecting the delivery.</li> </ul> <p>Include <u>signature and name of the person authorized</u> to deliver OAT in the delivery/ accountability log and retain in patient record.</p>	<p>--</p>

Current scope of practice:

**Emergency supplies (PPP-31)**

- Pharmacists can provide emergency supplies to patients for medications including narcotics, psychiatric drugs and anti-psychotics for chronic conditions, provided it is in the patient's best interest.
- Up to 30 days' supply can be provided if in the best interest of the patient.
- All decisions, rationales and outcomes are properly documented, including notification to prescriber if appropriate.

**Adapting prescriptions (PPP-58)**

- This policy has NOT changed. PPP-58 does not include adapting a prescription for narcotic, controlled drugs or targeted substances. If a change to a prescription for one of these categories of drugs is warranted, the pharmacist must contact the original prescriber to discuss modifying the original prescription.