



**COLLEGE OF
PHARMACISTS
OF MANITOBA**



**College of
Registered Nurses
of Manitoba**

September 29, 2020

Joint Guidance to Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Pharmacy Professionals:

Narcotic and Controlled Drug Prescriptions for Personal Care Home Residents

Effective October 1, 2020, verbal orders from physicians and RN(NP)s for narcotics and controlled drugs that fall under the Health Canada Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) may be accepted by pharmacists for residents of a personal care home (PCH) only. This exemption does NOT apply to patients who are not a resident of a personal care home at the time the verbal order is given. Of note, this exemption was originally initiated in conjunction with the Health Canada Section 56(1) class exemption dated March 19, 2020, and approved jointly by the three health regulatory authorities (College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba, and College of Pharmacists of Manitoba) for implementation on April 7, 2020, with an expiry date of September 30, 2020.

This temporary exemption has once again been jointly approved, remaining in effect during the COVID-19 pandemic and may not extend beyond September 30, 2021.

This exemption remains in keeping with Health Canada's Section 56(1) class exemption dated March 19, 2020, with amendments effective October 1, 2020. This exemption is provided in accordance with Section 78(4)(b) of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Regulations which states that an M3P schedule drug prescribed for a resident of a personal care home does not require an M3P prescription.

When unfamiliar with the prescriber, pharmacists are encouraged to implement measures to verify the prescriber's identity (eg. licence number or call-back telephone number).

Prescribers are encouraged to ask the pharmacist to read the verbal order back to them to ensure accuracy and patient safety.