



GUIDANCE FOR PALLIATIVE CARE M3P PRESCRIPTIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (CPSM) and the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba (CPhM) received an urgent request from palliative care physicians to further improve access to medications that require a Manitoba Prescribing Practices Program (M3P) form, specifically for patients who are registered in the Manitoba Palliative Care Drug Access Program. During the COVID-19 outbreak, patients are increasingly being asked to isolate themselves. Visits by physicians providing palliative care services are also becoming increasingly complex, making the mandate of a paper prescription more difficult. This is especially true because of the potential of a significant increase in the number of patients who will likely fall ill at the same time.

In addition, palliative care physicians conducting home visits typically have access to an electronic medical record (EMR) via a laptop computer for documentation purposes. However, they do not always have timely access to fax machines.

To facilitate palliative care under these circumstances, effective immediately, physicians caring for patients registered **with the Manitoba Palliative Care Drug Access Program ONLY**, may generate prescriptions for medications that normally require an M3P form utilizing their electronic medical record's prescription function. These EMR-generated prescriptions may be faxed directly from the EMR to the pharmacy. This means that the prescriber does NOT need to use an M3P form. However, the prescription must meet all the information requirements of an M3P form, including total quantity (in numbers and words) and specified quantities for dispensing at specified intervals (see examples below).

The requirements outlined in the Joint Statement Facsimile Transmission of Prescriptions must also be met and can be found here:

<https://cphm.ca/uploaded/web/Legislation/Facsimile%20Transmission%20of%20Prescriptions%20July%2022%202016.pdf>, and it must contain the usual signed certifications indicating that:

- i. the prescription represents the original of the prescription drug order,
- ii. the addressee is the only intended recipient and there are no others, and
- iii. the original prescription will be invalidated, securely filed and not transmitted elsewhere at another time.

We appreciate that certain electronic medical records have different capabilities for entering medications. The following parameters must be **typed out** by the prescribing physician in the free text box in the EMR. This will reflect M3P requirements. **A notation must also be included in the free text box stating: "This patient is registered in the Manitoba Palliative Care Drug Access Program"**. If this notation is not made or the prescription does not have complete information, there may be a delay in filling the prescription if the pharmacist needs to contact the prescriber. Prescribers must phone the pharmacy to ensure the prescription has been received.

Example # 1

Selected from EMR medication menu: MS Contin 100 mg 1 tabs Q12H po
MS Contin 100 (one hundred) mg Total quantity to be dispensed - 180 tablets (one hundred and eighty tablets) To be dispensed in lots of (quantity) 60 (sixty) tabs At interval of (# days)- 30 (thirty) days This patient is registered in the Palliative Care Drug Access Program

Example # 2

Selected from EMR medication menu: Methadone 10mg (ten) PO TID
Methadone 10 (ten) mg Total quantity dispensed: 1800 mg (one thousand eight hundred milligrams) To be dispensed in lots of (quantity) -90 (ninety) tablets At interval of (# days)- 30 (thirty) days This patient is registered in the Palliative Care Drug Access Program