



Promoting the appropriate use,
and reducing the abuse and misuse of monitored drugs in Nova Scotia.

Important Information for Prescribers and Pharmacists

Tramadol Update

As of March 31, 2022, Tramadol will be rescheduled and added to Schedule I of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA). All Tramadol prescriptions dispensed at Nova Scotia pharmacies will be monitored by the NSPMP as of this date. More information will follow.

Health Canada's CDSA Exemptions

Health Canada has extended the exemptions to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) and its Regulations effective October 1, 2021.

NSPMP changes remain in place to recognize pharmacists as temporary registered prescribers under the NSPMP to enable activities as defined under this exemption. As such, pharmacists are now enabled to extend or renew existing prescriptions, transfer prescriptions to other pharmacies within the same province or territory, and practitioners can issue verbal prescriptions for controlled substances.

The NSPMP continues to support faxing of prescriptions for controlled/monitored drugs to pharmacies.

All NSPMP changes in relation to this Health Canada exemption are effective October 1, 2021 until the earliest of September 30, 2026, or the date this exemption is replaced by another exemption, or the date it is revoked by Health Canada, or the date the NSPMP Board of Directors revokes.

Duplicate Prescription Forms

Please be reminded that duplicate prescription forms are still required for all written prescriptions presented in person for monitored drugs (excluding benzodiazepines) dispensed at Nova Scotia pharmacies. If a prescription for a monitored drug is presented at a Nova Scotia pharmacy, not written on a duplicate, the pharmacist will need to obtain a verbal or fax order.



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Faxing Monitored Drug Prescriptions – Patient/Public Safety

To ensure safe faxing of prescriptions for monitored drugs, fax to one pharmacy only and ensure the patient does not have a copy of the faxed prescription in hand. This will prevent duplicate prescription fills at multiple pharmacies.

In the event the patient decides to receive their prescription at a different pharmacy, communication must take place to ensure the prescription is cancelled at the original pharmacy.

The NSPMP eAccess and DIS systems are available to review the full patient monitored drug profile prior to prescribing or dispensing monitored drugs.

Out of Province Prescriptions for Monitored Drugs

The NSPMP requires all out of province prescribers register with the Program when they are providing prescriptions for monitored drugs that may be dispensed at Nova Scotia pharmacies.

However, registration is voluntary for out of province prescribers.

Registration is simple and timely. Please contact the Program for assistance or visit our website to find the registration form.

For support with prescription processing issues, please follow regular support processes with your software vendor.

Our Pharmacist Consultant, Lillian Berry, is available as a resource to you. Feel free to contact her at 902-496-3636.

Please contact the NSPMP at 902-496-7123 or 1-877-476-7767 if you require further clarification or visit the website at www.nspmp.ca.