

# LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR SCOPE OF PRACTICE & AUTHORIZED ACTS

Version: March 2025

**\*\*Portions of this chart are not applicable at this time due to the Subsection 56(1) Class Exemption issued by Health Canada\*\***

Health Canada has issued a [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act \(CDSA\) subsection 56\(1\) class exemption for pharmacists](#) from the provisions of:

- Subsection 31(1), and section 37 of the [Narcotic Control Regulations](#) (NCR)
- Sections G.03.002 and G.03.006 of Part G of the [Food and Drug Regulations](#) (FDR)
- Paragraphs 52 (c) and (d), subsection 54(1) of the [Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations](#).

The exemption expires on **September 30, 2026**, or until it is replaced by another exemption or revoked.

While this exemption is in effect, Part A pharmacists are authorized to:

- Dispense any narcotic pursuant to a written or verbal order from a practitioner
- Transfer prescriptions of narcotics and controlled drugs to another pharmacist in Canada. Prescriptions that have already been transferred may be transferred again to another pharmacist.
- Transfer prescriptions for a benzodiazepine or other targeted substance to another pharmacist. Prescriptions that have already been transferred may be transferred again to another pharmacist in Canada
- Refill prescriptions for a benzodiazepine or other targeted substance if more than one year has elapsed since the date it was issued by the prescriber
- Adapt and/or renew prescriptions for controlled substances for the purposes of facilitating continuation of treatment
  - Provincial [regulations under the Pharmacy Act](#) have also been amended to enable pharmacists in Ontario to renew and adapt prescriptions (including de-prescribing) for controlled substances (narcotics, controlled drugs and targeted substances).

## References:

- [Health Canada Subsection 56\(1\) Class Exemption for Patients, Practitioners and Pharmacists Prescribing and Providing Controlled Substances in Canada](#)
- [Prescription management by pharmacists with controlled substances](#)
- [Subsection 56\(1\) Class Exemption– Frequently asked questions](#)

# LEGAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE & AUTHORIZED ACTS FOR PHARMACY

\*The activities permitted by the Health Canada s.56 exemption are NOT reflected in the chart below.  
Please refer to page 1 for details.

This is only a **summary**. Refer to legislation for detailed information. Go to [www.ocpinfo.com](http://www.ocpinfo.com) for additional resources, policies, and guidelines.

Act	Part A Pharmacist (RPh)	Intern (pharmacist) <sup>2</sup>	Part A Pharmacy Technician (RPhT) <sup>3</sup>	Intern Technician <sup>4</sup>
Provide information & educate patients <sup>1</sup>	✓	✓	✓	Not if clinical or therapeutic
Dispense, sell and compound drugs <sup>5</sup>	✓	✓	✓	Technical aspects of prescription preparation and verification ONLY
Accept verbal prescriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For drugs on the Prescription Drug List<sup>6</sup></li> <li>For controlled drugs, verbal prescription narcotics, and benzodiazepines &amp; other targeted substances<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	✓ *Refer to s.56 exemption on Page 1	✓	✓	For drugs on the Prescription Drug List ONLY
Authorize prescription transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For drugs on the Prescription Drug List<sup>6</sup></li> <li>For benzodiazepines &amp; other targeted substances (can be transferred once)<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>	✓ *Refer to s.56 exemption on Page 1	✓	✓	For drugs on the Prescription Drug List ONLY
Delegate a controlled act	✓	X		X
Accept delegation of a controlled act	✓	✓		✓
Supervise a pharmacy or the part of the pharmacy where drugs are kept	✓	X		X

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**Students enrolled in an educational program to become a pharmacist or pharmacy technician can perform the above acts for their respective roles in accordance with the [Supervision of Pharmacy Personnel Policy](#).**

<sup>1</sup> [Pharmacy Act](#); s3

<sup>2</sup> Under supervision (direct supervision in a community pharmacy) according to terms, conditions and limitations on their certificate of registration; [O. Reg. 256/24](#) s13

<sup>3</sup> Under supervision (direct supervision in a community pharmacy) according to terms, conditions and limitations on their certificate of registration; [O. Reg. 256/24](#) s15

<sup>4</sup> Under supervision (direct supervision) and according to the terms, conditions and limitations on their certificate of registration; [O. Reg. 256/24](#) s18

<sup>5</sup> [Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act](#) s149; [O. Reg. 264/16](#) s4

<sup>6</sup> [Food & Drug Regulations](#), C.01.041

<sup>7</sup> [Food & Drug Regulations](#), G.03.008; [Narcotic Control Regulations](#), s34; [Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations](#), s51

<sup>8</sup> [Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations](#) s54; narcotics and controlled drugs cannot be transferred \*Refer to s.56 exemption on Page 1

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Act	Part A Pharmacist (RPh)	Intern (pharmacist) <sup>2</sup>	Part A Pharmacy Technician (RPhT) <sup>3</sup>	Intern Technician <sup>4</sup>
Administer a vaccine listed in <a href="#">Schedule 3</a> by injection <sup>9</sup> , with approved training and, for influenza, in accordance with Ministry of Health requirements	✓	✓	✓ Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines ONLY	X
Administer a substance in <a href="#">Schedule 1</a> by injection <sup>9</sup> , with approved training and in accordance with any specified limitations	✓	✓		X
Administer a substance in <a href="#">Schedule 2</a> by inhalation <sup>9</sup>	✓	✓		X
Prescribe <sup>10</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varenicline or bupropion for smoking cessation</li> <li>A drug in Column 3 of <a href="#">Schedule 4</a> for treating the corresponding minor ailment in Column 1</li> </ul>	✓	✓		X
Prescribe <sup>10</sup> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oseltamivir for treating influenza</li> <li>Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir for treating COVID-19</li> </ul>	✓	X		X
Prescribe <sup>11</sup> for the purpose of adapting or renewing a prescription (except for <a href="#">monitored drugs</a> )	✓ *Refer to s56 exemption on Page 1	✓		X
Perform a procedure on tissue below the dermis by piercing with a lancet-type device to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate patients and demonstrate its proper use</li> <li>Obtain blood to perform a point-of-care test listed in <a href="#">O. Reg. 45/22</a> s28<sup>12</sup></li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓ For a point-of-care test, a Part A pharmacist must interpret the results	

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<sup>9</sup>[O. Reg. 256/24](#) s50

<sup>10</sup>[O. Reg. 256/24](#) s51

<sup>11</sup>[O. Reg. 256/24](#) s52

<sup>12</sup>[O. Reg. 256/24](#) s55