

## LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR SCOPE OF PRACTICE / AUTHORIZED ACTS

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

March 26, 2020: Important update regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Updated: September 30, 2021; November 10, 2021; November 23, 2021; July 1, 2022; January 1, 2023

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](#).

This exemption expires on the earliest of the following: September 30, 2026; the date it is replaced by another exemption; or the date it is revoked.

While this exemption is in effect,

- Pharmacists may dispense any narcotic pursuant to a written or verbal order from a practitioner
- Pharmacists may transfer prescriptions of narcotics and controlled drugs to another pharmacist in Canada and prescriptions that have already been transferred may be transferred again to another pharmacist
- Prescriptions for a benzodiazepine or other targeted substance that have already been transferred, may be transferred to another pharmacist in Canada
- Prescriptions for a benzodiazepine or other targeted substance may be refilled if more than one year has elapsed since the date it was issued by the prescriber
- Pharmacists may 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<sup>1</sup>

\*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	Pharmacist (RPh) in Part A of the Register	Registered Pharmacy Student <sup>2</sup> / Intern <sup>2</sup>		Pharmacy Technician (RPhT) <sup>3</sup>
Provide information & educate patients	✓	✓		✓ Not if clinical or therapeutic
Dispense, sell and compound drugs <sup>4</sup>	✓			✓ Technical aspects of prescription preparation and verification only
Accept verbal prescriptions <sup>5</sup> *Refer to s.56 exemption on Page 1	✓			✓ For drugs on the Prescription Drug List only, not controlled substances
Authorize prescription transfers <sup>5,6</sup> *Refer to s.56 exemption on Page 1	✓			✓ Except for benzodiazepines and other targeted substances
Delegate a controlled act	✓	X		X
Accept delegation of a controlled act	✓	X Student	✓ Intern	✓
Supervise a pharmacy or the part of the pharmacy where drugs are kept	✓	X		X

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<sup>1</sup> [Pharmacy Act](#); s3, s4

<sup>2</sup> Under supervision and according to the terms, conditions and limitations on their certificate of registration; [O. Reg. 202/94](#) s12, s15

<sup>3</sup> Under supervision (direct supervision required in a community pharmacy) and according to the terms, conditions and limitations on their certificate of registration; [O. Reg. 202/94](#) s18

<sup>4</sup> [Drug and Pharmacies Regulations Act](#) s149; [O. Reg. 264/16](#) s4

<sup>5</sup> [Food & Drug Regulations](#), C.01.041

<sup>6</sup> Narcotics & controlled drugs cannot be transferred. Benzodiazepines & other targeted substances can be transferred once between pharmacists; ([Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations](#) s54) \*Refer to s.56 exemption on Page 1

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Controlled Acts	Pharmacist (RPh) in Part A of the Register	Registered Pharmacy Student <sup>2</sup> / Intern <sup>3</sup>	Pharmacy Technician (RPhT) <sup>4</sup>
Prescribe <sup>6</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varenicline or bupropion for smoking cessation</li> <li>A drug in Column 3 of Schedule 4 for treating a minor ailment in Column 1</li> </ul>	✓	✓	X
Prescribe <sup>6</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oseltamivir for treating influenza</li> <li>Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir for treating coronavirus (COVID-19)</li> </ul>	✓	X	X
Prescribe <sup>7</sup> for the purpose of adapting or renewing a prescription (except for <a href="#">monitored drugs</a> ) *See s.56 exemption on Page 1	✓	✓	X
Administer a substance in <a href="#">Schedule 1</a> by injection <sup>8</sup> , with approved training and in accordance with any specified limitations	✓	✓	X
Administer a vaccine listed in <a href="#">Schedule 3</a> by injection <sup>8</sup> , with approved training and, for influenza, in accordance with Ministry of Health requirements	✓	✓	✓ Influenza, COVID-19* and RSV Vaccines ONLY
Administer a substance in <a href="#">Schedule 2</a> by inhalation <sup>8</sup>	✓	✓	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 for a point-of-care test listed in <a href="#">O. Reg. 45/22</a><sup>9</sup></li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓ For a point-of-care test, a Part A pharmacist must interpret the results

\*Note: The authority for pharmacy professionals to administer coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines is conferred by an exemption under O. Reg. 107/96, in effect until March 31, 2024. On April 1, 2024, the regulation adding COVID-19 vaccines to Schedule 3 of O. Reg. 202/94 comes into force and this authority will move under the Pharmacy Act.

<sup>6</sup> [O. Reg. 202/94](#) s35

<sup>7</sup> [O. Reg. 202/94](#) s36

<sup>8</sup> [O. Reg. 202/94](#) s34

<sup>9</sup> [O. Reg. 202/94](#) s39