

Appendix A

Alberta pharmacists: Additional Prescribing Authorization

Base initial prescribing powers

Prescribing in an emergency

- All clinical pharmacists may prescribe a Schedule 1 drug or blood products in an emergency if:
 - it is not reasonably possible for the patient to see a health professional to obtain the prescription, and
 - there is an immediate need for drug therapy / blood products.
- Authority: [Pharmacists Profession Regulation](#), s. 16(1)(g) and (h); [Standards 11.6 and 11.7](#)

Prescribing Schedule 2 and 3 drugs

- Not a restricted activity. Not mandatory to notify other members of the patient's health team, but must use their discretion to determine when it is appropriate to do so.

Prescribing for off-label indications

- Not permitted. A pharmacist must not prescribe a drug or blood product unless the intended use is:
 - an indication approved by Health Canada,
 - considered a best practice or accepted clinical practice in peer-reviewed clinical literature, or
 - part of an approved research protocol.
- Authority: [Standard 11.10](#)

Additional Prescribing Authorization in Alberta

The Alberta College of Pharmacy's [Additional Prescribing Authorization](#) (APA) allows clinical pharmacists to prescribe Schedule 1 drugs (in the Yukon this would be the [NAPRA schedule I](#)). The authorization is reflected on the applicant's licence and does not expire.

Legal sources

- S. 16 (3) and (4) of the [Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Profession Regulation](#)
- [Standards 11.8 and 11.9](#):
 - May prescribe at initial access or manage ongoing therapy based on: a) the pharmacist's own assessment of the patient; b) a recommendation from a prescriber that the patient receive a Schedule 1 drug or blood product; or c) a consultation with another regulated health professional.
 - Authorization not applicable to prescriptions for animals.

- [Standard 14](#): detailed APA requirements and policy.

About Schedule 1 drugs

- Require a prescription as a condition of sale, must be stored and sold in the dispensary.
- The legislated definition includes [NAPRA](#)'s Schedule 1 drugs, all federally scheduled drugs, and certain others [specific to Alberta](#). [More info here](#).
- Nevertheless, Alberta pharmacists are prohibited from prescribing scheduled drugs under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* ([Standard 11.11](#)), with or without APA.

Criteria

See [Standard 14](#) for more details.

- Have min. 1 year of full-time experience in direct patient care while on the clinical pharmacist register; waived for entry level graduates, but applicants must submit patient cases from their time on the clinical register as clinical pharmacists.
- Have strong collaborative relationships with other regulated health professionals.
- Have and maintain the necessary knowledge, skills, attitude and clinical judgment to enhance patient care.
- Have the required supports in their practice to enable safe and effective management of drug therapy.

Summary of APA conditions

- Before prescribing, the pharmacist must:
 - see the patient personally at the time of prescribing;
 - have seen the patient personally in the past and have developed a professional relationship over a period of time; or
 - have a strong collaborative relationship with a regulated health professional who regularly sees the patient in person.
- Must conduct an assessment, develop a follow-up plan and notify the patient's regular prescriber.
- Has a duty to communicate with other regulated health professionals:
 - Must determine which other professionals the patient is consulting.
 - Must communicate with other professionals who may be affected by the prescribing decision.
 - Must develop a collaborative relationship with other health professionals.
 - If diagnosis or further treatment is needed, must refer patient to another professional.

- If the pharmacist is prescribing based on a recommendation from a prescriber:
 - Must receive written recommendation or reduce a verbal recommendation in writing.
 - Must confirm that the prescriber is authorized to prescribe in Alberta.
- If the pharmacist is prescribing based on a consultation with another regulated health professional, they must confirm the professional is a regulated health professional and has an MOU in relation to collaborative prescribing.

Application process

Applications are evaluated by a minimum of 2 pharmacists who are trained to use an objective criterion-referenced assessment tool.

- Part A - [Application form](#): Describes the pharmacist's practice, preparedness and judgment.
- Part B – Three patient cases within the last 2 years: This evidence is reviewed and assessed against this [checklist](#) of [key activities and indicators](#).
- Part C – [Case narrative](#): opportunity to provide assessors with additional information.