



# M E M O

March 2009

**TO: Pharmacists**  
**FROM: Marshall Moleschi, Registrar**  
**SUBJECT: DRUG SCHEDULES REGULATION CHANGES**

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The provincial government has recently approved a number of drug schedule changes, and they are now in effect in British Columbia. Because of imminent legislative revisions due to take effect on April 1, we will not be updating the Drug Schedules Regulation posted on the college's website, nor will we be mailing any materials to individual pharmacists. The revised materials will be available after April 1, 2009.

A number of the drug schedule changes are minor wording changes that have no impact on practice. Below are the changes that may affect your practice:

<b>DRUG</b>	<b>NEW STATUS</b>	<b>AFFECTED DOSAGE FORM / STRENGTH</b>
Benzoyl peroxide	Unscheduled	Products in concentrations of 5% or less as a single ingredient
Diclofenac diethylamine	Schedule 3	Products for topical use on the skin in concentrations of not more than 1% diclofenac* as a single ingredient. Other diclofenac-containing products continue to require a prescription
Famotidine	Schedule 3	Products indicated for heartburn, in concentrations of 20 mg or less per oral dosage unit and in package sizes containing more than 600 mg famotidine
	Unscheduled	Indicated for heartburn in concentrations of 20 mg or less per oral dosage unit and in package sizes containing no more than 600 mg famotidine
Levonorgestrel	Schedule 2	When sold in concentrations of 0.75 mg per oral dosage unit (except when labelled to be taken as a single dose of 1.5 mg and in package sizes containing no more than 1.5 mg levonorgestrel, packaged and labelled for emergency contraception)
	Schedule 3	When sold in concentrations of 0.75 mg per oral dosage unit to be taken as a single dose of 1.5 mg, in package sizes containing no more than 1.5 mg levonorgestrel, packaged and labelled for emergency contraception

***\*Based on the information contained in the product monograph, Voltaren Emulgel 1.16% w/w contains 1% diclofenac-Na equivalent and is, therefore, a Schedule 3 product.***