

M E M O

July 2008

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

The provincial government has recently approved a number of drug schedule changes, and they are now in effect in British Columbia. We have updated the drug schedules on the college website, but we will not be mailing revised copies to pharmacists or pharmacies.

We encourage you to use the college website to answer drug scheduling questions. It is available at http://www.bcpharmacists.org/legislation_standards/drug_distribution/provincial_drug_schedules/. If you need assistance interpreting the drug schedules, you are welcome to contact our OnCall Pharmacist Information Line at 1-800-663-1940.

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:

DRUG	NEW STATUS	AFFECTED DOSAGE FORM / STRENGTH
Bacitracin	Schedule 3	Ophthalmic use
Clobetasone butyrate	Schedule 2	Topical use in 0.05% cream preparations
Dextromethorphan	Unscheduled	Products marketed in oral dosage forms in package sizes containing no more than 300mg dextromethorphan base or 409.3 dextromethorphan hydrobromide
Diphenhydramine	Schedule 2	Parenteral use in any strength and topical use in preparations greater than 2%
	Schedule 3	All other strengths and dosage forms
Famotidine	Schedule 2	Indicated for heartburn, in concentrations of 20 mg or less per oral dosage unit and in package sizes containing more than 600 mg famotidine (Note: a further deregulation to Schedule 3 has been submitted to the provincial government but has not yet been approved.)
	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
Fexofenadine	Schedule 3	Products marketed for pediatric use (under 12 years of age)
	Unscheduled	Products marketed for adult use (12 years and older)
Gramicidin	Schedule 3	Ophthalmic use

DRUG	NEW STATUS	AFFECTED DOSAGE FORM / STRENGTH
Ibuprofen	Unscheduled	Solid or liquid dosage forms containing 400 mg or less per dosage unit (Note: Health Canada's Schedule F does not permit the nonprescription sale of topical ibuprofen preparations)
	Schedule 1	Solid and liquid dosage forms containing more than 400 mg per dosage unit
Isopropyl myristate	Schedule 3	Head lice treatments in preparations of 50% concentration
Lidocaine	Schedule 2	Ophthalmic or parenteral use or topical use on mucous Membranes, except lozenges
	Schedule 3	Otic use
	Unscheduled	Topical use on the skin, including lozenges
Loperamide	Schedule 2	Products marketed for pediatric use (under 12 years of age)
	Unscheduled	Products marketed for adult use (12 years and older)
Nicotine	Unscheduled	Lozenges and inhalation devices delivering 4 mg or less per dosage unit (Note: chewing gum and transdermal patches continue as Unscheduled as detailed in the provincial drug schedules.)
Phenylpropanolamine	Schedule 1	For veterinary use
Polymyxin B	Schedule 3	Ophthalmic use
Ranitidine	Schedule 3	Indicated for heartburn, in concentrations of 150 mg or less per oral dosage unit and in package sizes containing more than 4500 mg ranitidine
	Unscheduled	Indicated for heartburn, in concentrations of 150 mg or less per oral dosage unit and in package sizes containing no more than 4500 mg ranitidine

For the precise and comprehensive wording of the drug schedule entries, please consult the Drug Schedules Regulation available on our website as noted above.