

~~This professional practice policy provides guidance to enables pharmacists to exercise their professional judgment and education by when providing authorization to provide patients with an emergency prescription refill supply of prescription drugs to ensure for continuity of patient care until the prescriber can be contacted for authorization in exceptional circumstances in accordance with the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act ("PODSA") Bylaws section 19(7)(d).~~

### POLICY STATEMENT(S):

~~1. A pharmacist may exercise professional judgment in the provision of to provide a patient with an emergency prescription refill supplies of a medication supply of prescription drugs for continuity of care. This practice is the exception to the rule and not the normal practice.~~

~~A pharmacist may dispense an emergency refill in the following situations;~~

- ~~— where a patient's medication supply has been exhausted, a refill may be dispensed to ensure continuity of care. OR~~
- ~~— where a patient attends the pharmacy for an authorized refill of a valid prescription but PharmaNet returns the message, '101 Prescriber not found' or 'D3 Prescriber is not authorized' and the pharmacist ensures that the patient is not on Pharmacare's *Restricted Claimants Program*, a refill may be dispensed to ensure continuity of care and to allow time for the patient to find a new prescriber.~~

~~The pharmacist must comply with each of using the following practice fundamentals principles;:~~

~~a) 1. Individual competence:~~

~~a. The pharmacist has appropriate knowledge and understanding of the condition and the drug being dispensed in order to adapt the prescription for emergency supply;:~~

~~b) 2. Appropriate Sufficient information:~~

~~a. The pharmacist has sufficient information about the specific patient's health status to ensure determine that dispensing an emergency refill of the prescriptions supply will is appropriate in the given circumstances ensure continuity of care and will not put the patient at increased risk;:~~

~~c) 3. Appropriateness quantity:~~

~~a. The pharmacist must should use their professional judgment to determine whether provision of an emergency refill is appropriate in the circumstances, and must determine an appropriate quantity of the days emergency supply based on what is reasonable in the given circumstances, and based on the drug involved and how long it will take the patient to see a prescriber;:~~

~~d) 4. Informed consent:~~

~~a. The pharmacist must has obtained the patient's or the patient representative's the informed consent of the patient or patient's representative before undertaking an emergency refill supply;:~~

~~e) 5. Documentation:~~

~~b. The pharmacists responsible for making the decision to provide an emergency supply must should:~~

~~i. document in the client/patient's record any emergency refill of the prescription, the rationale for the decision, and any appropriate follow-up plan;:~~

~~ii. a. ensure the PharmaNet dispensing record includes Pharmacists must use their the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia pharmacist registration numbers in the PharmaNet the practitioner ID field to identify the pharmacist responsible for the decision-maker when providing an emergency supply of a drug to a patient;:~~

~~b. Pharmacists must document in the client's record any emergency refill of the prescription, the rationale for the decision, and any appropriate follow-up plan.~~

~~f) Notification of other health professionals: Where possible and appropriate, the pharmacist should notify the practitioner in a timely fashion and should make a record of this~~

in the patient's record.

**BACKGROUND:**

Protocol for provision of an emergency prescription refill

~~This professional practice policy enables pharmacists to exercise their professional judgment and education by providing authorization to provide an emergency prescription refill to ensure continuity of patient care until the prescriber can be contacted for authorization. This policy is not mandatory and the decision of whether to provide an emergency prescription refill is at the discretion of the individual pharmacist.~~

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