



January 30, 2025

Joint Communication:

Pharmacy Prescription Transfers for Controlled Drugs (including Opioid Agonist Therapy)

In 2021, Health Canada issued a section 56 exemption which permitted pharmacists to transfer prescriptions for drugs listed on the [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#) (CDSA) between pharmacies. Soon after, Saskatchewan regulators were advised of potentially inappropriate and unsafe transfer practices. As such, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS), the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) and the College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan (CRNS) developed a policy to restrict CDSA prescription transfers to one time.

In response to recent reports that the existing policy impedes care, prescription transfers for CDSA drugs will now be permitted back to the patient's original pharmacy after being transferred away once (i.e. a second transfer can only occur if the prescription is going back to the pharmacy from which it was transferred out).

Pharmacy professionals are reminded that communication between pharmacies is paramount for safety (e.g. avoiding double dosing of Opioid Agonist Therapy). Professional judgement and/or collaboration with the patient's prescriber should be utilized for individual cases.