



AT A GLANCE: Key Changes to Controlled Substances Authority

As of October 1, 2026, Health [Canada's Controlled Substances Regulations](#) will create a single, modernized framework for regulating controlled substances. Some of these changes will affect pharmacy practice. The table below highlights key changes related to controlled substances authorities for pharmacy professionals.

This is not intended to be a comprehensive summary and does not capture all changes. For complete details, please refer to the [Controlled Substances Regulations](#).

REGISTRANT TYPE	CURRENT ENVIRONMENT	UNDER HEALTH CANADA'S CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REGULATIONS (IN EFFECT OCTOBER 1, 2026)
Pharmacists and Interns	Authorized to: • Order and receive controlled substances • Accept verbal prescriptions for controlled substances from a practitioner* • Transfer prescriptions for controlled substances to another pharmacist in Canada* • Renew or adapt prescriptions for controlled substances* *Under Health Canada's subsection 56 (1) exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (pharmacists only).	Authorized to: • Order and receive controlled substances • Accept verbal prescriptions for controlled substances from a practitioner • NEW Transfer prescriptions for controlled substances to another pharmacist or pharmacy technician in Canada within two years of the date of receipt • NEW Extend (renew) or adapt prescriptions for controlled substances within two years of the date of receipt • NEW De-prescribe controlled substance prescriptions as an adaptation, or part-fill them in accordance with the Drug Interchangeability and Dispensing Fee Act
Pharmacy Technicians and Intern Technicians	Authorized to: • Perform technical checks for controlled substance prescriptions • Serve as a witness during the destruction of controlled substances	Authorized to: • Perform technical checks for controlled substance prescriptions • Serve as a witness during the destruction of controlled substances • NEW Accept verbal prescriptions for controlled substances from a practitioner • NEW Receive controlled substances • NEW Transfer prescriptions for controlled substances to another pharmacy technician or pharmacist in Canada within two years of the date of receipt • NEW Destroy controlled substances at a community pharmacy or in a hospital

[Students](#) enrolled in an educational program to become a pharmacist or pharmacy technician can perform their respective roles in accordance with the [Supervision of Pharmacy Personnel Policy](#). Individuals practicing under [As of Right](#) rules have the same authority as pharmacists or pharmacy technicians in Ontario.