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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	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 • **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 • **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.