

LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR SCOPE OF PRACTICE & AUTHORIZED ACTS

Version: February 2026

****Portions of this chart are not applicable at this time due to the Subsection 56(1) Class Exemption issued by Health Canada****

Health Canada has issued a [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act \(CDSA\) subsection 56\(1\) class exemption for pharmacists](#) from the provisions of:

- Subsection 31(1), and section 37 of the [Narcotic Control Regulations](#) (NCR)
- Sections G.03.002 and G.03.006 of Part G of the [Food and Drug Regulations](#) (FDR)
- Paragraphs 52 (c) and (d), subsection 54(1) of the [Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations](#).

The exemption expires on **September 30, 2026**. On October 1, 2026, new [Controlled Substances Regulations](#) under the CDSA come into force.

While this exemption is in effect, Part A pharmacists are authorized to:

- Dispense any narcotic pursuant to a written or verbal order from a practitioner
- Transfer prescriptions of narcotics and controlled drugs to another pharmacist in Canada. Prescriptions that have already been transferred may be transferred again to another pharmacist.
- Transfer prescriptions for a benzodiazepine or other targeted substance to another pharmacist. Prescriptions that have already been transferred may be transferred again to another pharmacist in Canada
- Refill prescriptions for a benzodiazepine or other targeted substance if more than one year has elapsed since the date it was issued by the prescriber
- Adapt and/or renew prescriptions for controlled substances for the purposes of facilitating continuation of treatment
 - Provincial [regulations under the Pharmacy Act](#) have also been amended to enable pharmacists in Ontario to renew and adapt prescriptions (including de-prescribing) for controlled substances (narcotics, controlled drugs and targeted substances).

References:

- [Health Canada Subsection 56\(1\) Class Exemption for Patients, Practitioners and Pharmacists Prescribing and Providing Controlled Substances in Canada](#)
- [Prescription management by pharmacists with controlled substances](#)
- [Subsection 56\(1\) Class Exemption– Frequently asked questions](#)

LEGAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE & AUTHORIZED ACTS FOR PHARMACY

*The activities permitted by the Health Canada s.56 exemption are NOT reflected in the chart below. Refer to page 1 for details.

Students enrolled in an educational program to become a pharmacist or pharmacy technician can perform the above acts for their respective roles in accordance with the [Supervision of Pharmacy Personnel Policy](#).

This is only a **summary**. Refer to legislation for detailed information. Go to www.ocpinfo.com for additional resources, policies, and guidelines.

Act	Part A Pharmacist (RPh)	Intern (pharmacist) ²	Part A Pharmacy Technician (RPhT) ³	Intern Technician ⁴
Provide information & educate patients ¹	✓	✓	✓	Not if clinical or therapeutic
Dispense, sell and compound drugs ⁵	✓	✓	✓	Technical aspects of prescription preparation and verification ONLY ⁶
Accept verbal prescriptions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For drugs on the Prescription Drug List⁷ For controlled drugs, verbal prescription narcotics, benzodiazepines & other targeted substances⁸ 	✓ *Refer to s.56 exemption on Page 1	✓	✓	For drugs on the Prescription Drug List ONLY
Authorize prescription transfers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For drugs on the Prescription Drug List⁷ For benzodiazepines & other targeted substances (can be transferred once)⁹ 	✓ *Refer to s.56 exemption on Page 1	✓	✓	For drugs on the Prescription Drug List ONLY
Delegate a controlled act	✓	X		X
Accept delegation of a controlled act	✓	✓		✓
Supervise a pharmacy or the part of the pharmacy where drugs are kept	✓	X		X

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¹ [Pharmacy Act](#); s3

² Under supervision (direct supervision in a community pharmacy) according to terms, conditions and limitations on their certificate of registration; [O. Reg. 256/24](#) s13

³ Under supervision (direct supervision in a community pharmacy) according to terms, conditions and limitations on their certificate of registration; [O. Reg. 256/24](#) s15

⁴ Under supervision (direct supervision) and according to the terms, conditions and limitations on their certificate of registration; [O. Reg. 256/24](#) s18

⁵ [Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act](#) s149; [O. Reg. 264/16](#) s4

⁶ Therapeutic verification by a pharmacist must occur before any prescription, new or refill, is released to the patient.

⁷ [Food & Drug Regulations](#), C.01.041

⁸ [Food & Drug Regulations](#), G.03.008; [Narcotic Control Regulations](#), s34; [Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations](#), s51

⁹ [Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations](#) s54; narcotics and controlled drugs cannot be transferred *Refer to s.56 exemption on Page 1

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Act	Part A Pharmacist (RPh)	Intern (pharmacist) ²	Part A Pharmacy Technician (RPhT) ³	Intern Technician ⁴
Administer a vaccine listed in Schedule 3 by injection ¹⁰ , with approved training and, for influenza, in accordance with Ministry of Health requirements	✓	✓	✓ Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines ONLY	X
Administer a substance in Schedule 1 by injection ¹⁰ , with approved training and in accordance with any specified limitations	✓	✓		X
Administer a substance in Schedule 2 by inhalation ¹⁰	✓	✓		X
Prescribe ¹¹ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varenicline or bupropion for smoking cessation A drug in Column 3 of Schedule 4 for treating the corresponding minor ailment in Column 1 	✓	✓		X
Prescribe ¹¹ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oseltamivir for treating influenza Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir for treating COVID-19 	✓	X		X
Prescribe ¹² for the purpose of adapting or renewing a prescription (except for monitored drugs)	✓	*Refer to s56 exemption on Page 1	✓	X
Perform a procedure on tissue below the dermis by piercing with a lancet-type device to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate patients and demonstrate its proper use Obtain blood to perform a point-of-care test listed in O. Reg. 45/22 s28¹² 	✓	✓	✓ For a point-of-care test, a Part A pharmacist must interpret the results	

⁹[O. Reg. 256/24](#) s50

¹⁰[O. Reg. 256/24](#) s51

¹¹[O. Reg. 256/24](#) s52

¹²[O. Reg. 256/24](#) s55