



# Friday Five

November 17, 2017

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## Updated Mifegymiso Guidelines

On November 7, 2017, Health Canada revised the indication for Mifegymiso and the restrictions on the distribution, prescribing and dispensing. The following are the key changes:

- Mifegymiso can now be prescribed for medical termination of a pregnancy up to nine weeks (63 days) gestation, rather than the previous limit of seven weeks (49 days)
- Mifegymiso can now be dispensed directly to patients by a pharmacist or a prescribing health professional. Directions for use remain the same. Patients should take the medication as directed by their health professional, either at a health facility or at home
- Although healthcare professionals are no longer required to complete an education program prior to prescribing Mifegymiso, they should have appropriate knowledge of medical termination of pregnancy and the use of Mifegymiso. Education programs are available through [The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada](#) and also through the distributor, [Celopharma](#)
- The requirement for written patient consent to use Mifegymiso has been removed; however, dialogue and information sharing between patients and health professionals is always important
- Health professionals are no longer required to register with Celopharma in order to prescribe or dispense Mifegymiso

The College's [Guidelines for Pharmacists Dispensing Mifegymiso](#) has been updated to reflect these changes and is available on the College website.

## Professional Development Opportunities

### Online Programs:

[Oral-Systemic Health Education for Non-Dental Healthcare Providers](#)

[Ordering Lab Tests for Manitoba Pharmacists](#)

Visit [www.cphm.ca](http://www.cphm.ca) for more information on [Expanded Scope of Practice](#) training.

[Self-Limiting Conditions Independent Study Program](#)

Visit [www.cphm.ca](http://www.cphm.ca) for more information on [Expanded Scope of Practice](#) training.

All PD opportunities are listed on the College website under [Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities](#)

## Acceptable Forms of Payment for Fines and/or

## Contributions to Cost

On October 2, 2017, Council approved a policy entitled Acceptable Forms of Payment for Fines and / or Contributions to Cost (Policy).

The College had been incurring unnecessary fees as a result of processing credit card transactions for fines and contribution to costs assessed during the complaints and discipline process. For this reason , the College has adopted the following policy:

*Fines and / or contributions to costs assessed against an investigated person may be submitted to the offices of the College by cash (in person only), cheque, or money order / certified cheque. Payments made by personal cheque require processing time to allow financial institutions to complete the transfer of funds. Until such time as the College receives confirmation of receipt of the funds, no licence will be issued or conditions removed which are subject to completion of the transaction.*

*Credit cards are not an acceptable method of payment for such transactions.*

The Policy impacts only transactions associated with fines and / or contributions to costs assessed against a member as a result of a Complaints Committee or Discipline Committee decision. No changes have been made to the usual acceptance of credit card payments for member registration and licence fees.

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## Narcotic Sales Reports

The [Narcotic Control Regulations](#) place a great deal of responsibility on pharmacists for the protection and security of narcotics within their possession. With this in mind, it is paramount that pharmacists exhibit strict measures in the management and protection of narcotic inventory.

One very important tool to be used in the management of narcotics is the review of the Narcotic Sales Report. This report can assist in identifying diversion and/or theft if used and reviewed appropriately.

The report should be printed monthly and reviewed by the pharmacy manager (or designate) to ensure the following:

- All reportable narcotics and controlled drugs are properly recorded (e.g. software is up to date)
- All prescriptions are accounted for (e.g. no prescriptions are missing)
- All narcotics and controlled drugs requiring a written prescription are accounted for and the prescriptions are valid
- All drug usage is examined for any unusual patterns
- All unusual drug usage is investigated as necessary

The pharmacist should randomly select 10 per cent of narcotic and controlled drug prescriptions filled each month, and reconcile the original written prescription with the Narcotic Sales Report. If there are any discrepancies, they must be addressed and documented. It is important that the Narcotic Sales Reports are accurate and correspond to prescriptions dispensed, as well as inventory counts

and all reconciliations.

This Narcotic Sales Report must be filed in an easily retrievable manner.

For more information on establishing narcotic and controlled drug monitoring and accountability procedures, including the steps to address unusual or suspicious activity in regards to narcotics, please see the [Narcotic and Controlled Drug Accountability Guidelines](#) available on the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba website.

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## Manitoba Sees Sharp Drop in Exempted Codeine Product Sales

In February 2016, the College introduced the [Practice Direction on Exempted Codeine Products in Manitoba](#) which requires patients to access exempted (low-dose) codeine products by prescription only. This change in practice has meant that pharmacists in the province have been empowered to intervene in potential misuse and abuse of low-dose codeine products by providing assessment and consultation to patients on the suitability of low-dose codeine products and possible alternatives such as non-prescription drug therapies or an appropriate referral.

According to data provided by Health Canada's Office of Controlled Substances, there has been a sharp drop in the number of units of low-dose codeine products purchased by pharmacies in Manitoba since requiring these drugs to be sold by prescription only. In the year following the introduction of the Practice Direction, the sale of low-dose codeine products in Manitoba has decreased by over 90 per cent. As prescribers of low-dose codeine products, Manitoba pharmacists have proven their ability to reduce the risk of harm to their patients while still providing patient care for those who benefit.

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The *Friday Five* e-bulletin is published by the **College of Pharmacists of Manitoba** and is forwarded to every licenced pharmacist in the Province of Manitoba. Decisions of the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba regarding all matters such as regulations, drug-related incidents, etc., are published in the *Friday Five*. The College of Pharmacists of Manitoba therefore assumes that all pharmacists and pharmacy owners are aware of these matters.

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