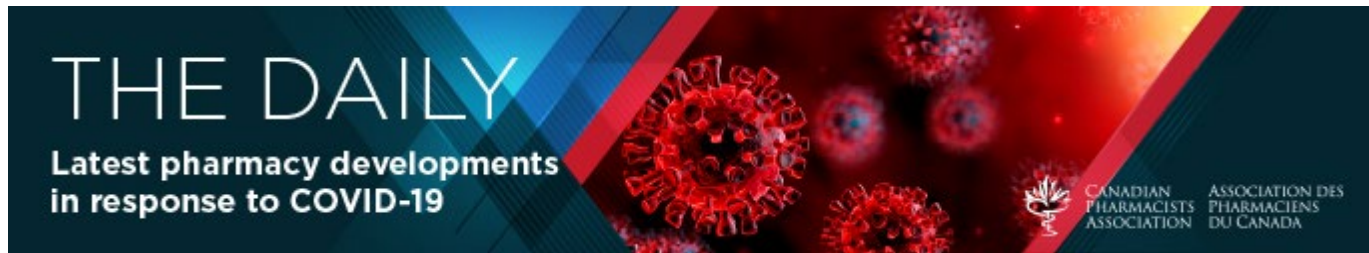


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: March 17, 2020 5:36 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for March 17



March 17, 2020

Canadian Pharmacists Association

CPhA statement on the responsible allocation of medications to patients

CPhA supports the responsible allocation of medications to patients and recommends a 30-day supply of medications, unless clinically justified. We are calling on governments, private payers, public health officials, regulators and other health care practitioners to support this temporary change in dispensing practice and to encourage Canadians to refrain from purchasing large quantities of medical supplies. [Read the statement.](#)

CPhA launches COVID-19 Information for Pharmacists resource page

CPhA is committed to working with Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to ensure that pharmacists across Canada have the tools and resources to support their patients as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Resources and information compiled by CPhA will be available on our website at www.pharmacists.ca/covid19 (www.pharmacists.ca/covid19fr), which will be updated regularly.

Use of NSAIDs in patients with COVID-19: What is the evidence?

CPhA has developed a resource outlining the evidence around use of NSAIDs in patients with COVID-19. There is currently insufficient evidence that NSAIDs negatively impact morbidity or mortality of COVID-19 and Health Canada continues to recommend both ibuprofen and acetaminophen for treatment of fever due to COVID-19. Further research, including randomized controlled trials, is required to determine the impact of NSAIDs on coronavirus infection and subsequent disease. The [statement](#) is available on our website and CPhA's Barry Power spoke to [Global News](#) on March 17.

Provincial

Quebec pharmacists can now extend prescriptions

In the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, Quebec pharmacists can now extend prescriptions and prescribe certain medications. The College of Physicians and the College of Pharmacists have agreed to relax certain rules in order to "minimize the number of medical consultations," according to a [press release](#) published by the Collège des médecins du Québec. Pharmacists in Quebec will therefore be able to extend prescriptions for periods beyond the durations prescribed by law.

OPA submits asks to Ontario Ministry of Health

The Ontario Pharmacists Association has been [strongly advising the government](#) to include pharmacists as essential health care providers for greater access to personal protection equipment even as these supplies are in shortage for all healthcare providers. They have formally submitted the [following asks](#) to the Ontario Ministry of Health.

- Accelerated passage & implementation of regs to enable common ailments & emergency prescribing

- Relaxation of health policies that restrict virtual provision of care (e.g., MedsCheck)
- Application of funding relief for pharmacy's increased reliance on delivery services for prescriptions
- Accelerated passage & implementation of point of care testing, particularly for COVID-19
- Passage and implementation of regulation changes to enable owners & operators of labs to share a patient's lab results with their pharmacy

International

APhA calls on Coronavirus Task Force to expand pharmacists' role

The American Pharmacists Association is calling on Secretary Azar and the Coronavirus Task Force to allow pharmacists to administer a rapid diagnostic test for coronavirus when one is available for point-of-care testing, when it is available; collect samples to send to CDC for currently available testing; assess patients, conduct testing, interpret results, and provide available treatment or referrals, according to CDC guidance; receive a CLIA Certificate of Waiver, when appropriate, for coronavirus point-of-care testing when it is available; and evaluate patients and prescribe appropriate medications as it currently done in several states with antivirals to treat influenza. APhA's letter also calls on the Task Force to recognize pharmacists as capable immunizers and use their services to administer the coronavirus vaccine when it is available. Read the [full letter](#).

CDC issues interim guidelines for management of patients with confirmed COVID-19

Updated March 7, 2020, the CDC's [Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#) includes revisions to reflect new research and information now available, including:

- Characteristics of patients with confirmed COVID-19 based on recent epidemiologic data from China, including characteristics of patients with COVID-19 admitted to the intensive care unit and data on pediatric cases
- Data regarding SARS-CoV-2 viral shedding among asymptomatic persons, and data from a recent report of viable SARS-CoV-2 isolation from stool
- Accessibility of investigational drug therapies for COVID-19 treatment through clinical trial enrollment in the United States
- Recently published pediatric surviving sepsis guidance

Newsworthy

American pharmacy chains, other retailers to offer COVID-19 testing

Walgreens, CVS Health, and Target said they will start providing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) testing in their parking lots. "Given our physical presence in communities across the country and ability to reach millions of consumers with innovative, local solutions, we're in a unique position to help address the COVID-19 pandemic. We're working with the administration and other partners to help facilitate COVID-19 testing with a common goal of increasing frequency and efficiency," CVS Health said in a [press release](#). For more, [click here](#).

This daily COVID-19 update is compiled by the Canadian Pharmacists Association. To unsubscribe, please reply to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Please note that this publication is meant to inform and is not a comprehensive list of information available. Please be sure to check with your provincial regulatory authority or advocacy association for province-specific information. While we aim to ensure all information contained in this update is accurate, the situation is evolving rapidly and CPhA does not take responsibility for the content provided by other organizations and sources.