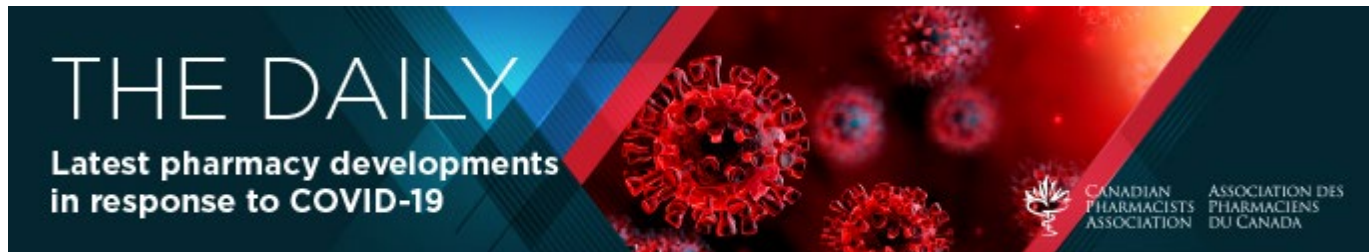


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: March 18, 2020 5:11 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for March 18



March 18, 2020

Canadian Pharmacists Association

CPhA issues joint letter to the Government of Canada urging coordinated plan for PPE and recognizing pharmacists as essential providers

CPhA has issued [an open letter to the Government of Canada](#), co-signed by 17 other national and provincial organizations. While we appreciate that there are global supply challenges for PPE for all health care providers and understand the need for careful stewardship and triage of these scarce resources, we are asking public health officials to exercise proactive measures and join other global leaders to expedite an action and allocation plan, recognizing community pharmacy as an essential service.

CPhA chair stresses critical role of pharmacy in COVID-19

In a blog post appearing in Canadian Healthcare Networks, CPhA Chair Christine Hrudka writes about the importance of pharmacies and pharmacists during the pandemic and addresses concrete actions taken by the association in partnership with its members, industry, government and other stakeholders. She writes: "In the days and weeks ahead our message will be clear and simple: pharmacists will continue to be on the front lines providing advice and care to patients throughout the duration of this crisis; pharmacy infrastructure is essential to the functioning of our health care system, and pharmacists need to have access to the necessary protective equipment and resources so that they can continue their essential role." [Read the full article here.](#)

Canadians warned not to stockpile medicine: CPhA's Barry Power talks to Global News

Barry Power, CPhA's Senior Director, Digital Content, [spoke with Global News](#) to reiterate CPhA's recommendation that medication refills be limited to a 30-day supply except when clinically justified. He stresses that pharmacies play a key role in managing Canada's drug supply, and individuals demanding larger quantities could result in local shortages, which could lead to broader ones.

CPhA's COVID-19 web pages are being updated regularly at www.pharmacists.ca/covid19 and www.pharmacists.ca/covid19fr.

National

Innovative Medicines Canada releases statement on Canada's drug supply

Innovative Medicines Canada has [released a statement](#) indicating that there are no COVID-19 shortages currently being reported, nor are its members reporting constraints on their ability to supply medicines to Canadians. They urge Canadians not to stockpile medications, and noted that manufacturers report all shortages to Health Canada for posting on the Drug Shortages Canada website, drugshortages.ca.

Provincial

New Brunswick issues 30-day supply directive

The New Brunswick Pharmacists' Association and the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists (NBCP) are working together with government officials and other health care associations to ensure pharmacists have the tools and resources necessary to continue to support New Brunswickers as the province responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a vital first step, the NBCP has issued this directive: *With rare exceptions and according to the pharmacist's judgement, pharmacists will provide patients with medication for 30 days only.* [Read more.](#)

OPA releases Pandemic Preparedness Guide for Pharmacists

The Ontario Pharmacists Association has released [COVID-19 Pandemic: A Pharmacist's Guide to Pandemic Preparedness](#). This document was developed to assist pharmacy professionals with developing and implementing a plan to address the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring continuity of care for patients, as well as minimizing the risks to pharmacy staff and the economy. The guide includes background information on the coronavirus as well as guidance for pharmacy practice and operations, including screening, reporting cases, ensuring continuity of care, protection of pharmacy staff and patients, drug supply management and business continuity.

CSHP-Ontario Branch creates COVID-19 PSN

In an effort to share information and best hospital pharmacy practices regarding COVID-19, the Ontario Branch of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists has created a COVID-19 Pharmacy Specialty Network (PSN). The PSN is open access for all and can be joined at www.QID.io.

RxA calls on government to fund new pharmacist screening service

RxA has drafted a proposal that would enable funding through the establishment of a new pharmacy service and billing code for the *Assessment to Screen and/or Test for Infectious Disease*. This service positions pharmacists to actively assess, screen and refer Albertans for testing per the COVID-19 risk criteria identified by Alberta Health Services to support and reduce the volume of calls routed through 811 and to maximize the delivery of care to Albertans. The goal of this proposal is to recognize and support pharmacists working to help Alberta patients with or at risk of COVID-19 and would allow patient referral to a testing centre if required. The proposal also asks for future consideration around the assessment and distribution of coronavirus test kits and vaccinations once these elements become available. Read more on the [Canadian Healthcare Network](#) (subscription required).

BC pharmacists have broader latitude than usual during pandemic

The BC College of Pharmacists has stated that pharmacists should exercise their professional judgment to provide patients with an emergency supply of prescription medications for continuity of care under Professional Practice Policy 31 – Emergency Supply for Continuity of care. Read more on the [Canadian Healthcare Network](#) (subscription required).

International

APhA issues statement on protections for healthcare providers during coronavirus pandemic

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) has issued a [statement](#) urging safeguards and protections for pharmacists as essential frontline health care providers.

Newsworthy

The Pharmaceutical Journal: Pharmacists are on the front line of COVID-19, but they need help too

The Pharmaceutical Journal in the UK is reporting that an urgent package of funding and support is required to enable pharmacists to support vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic. The UK government has moved from the "containment" phase to the "delay" phase of its strategy to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19). [Read the full article here.](#)

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

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Please note that this publication is meant to inform and is not a comprehensive list of information available. 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.