

From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
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CPhA

The COVID Conversations: A day in the life webinar recording available soon

The most recent edition of CPhA's COVID Conversations webinar series took place on Tuesday, April 14. Hundreds of pharmacists registered for A Day In the Life of Community Pharmacists During COVID-19: Stories from the Front Line, in which CPhA's Shelita Dattani hosted a panel of front-line pharmacists from across the country who shared their stories about how daily practice and patient care has changed in community pharmacy during COVID-19. Speakers included Christina Tulk (Shoppers Drug Mart), Kimberly Sentes (Towers Pharmacy (PharmaChoice)) and Sukhpreet Poonia (Community Apothecary/Langley Memorial Hospital). The [recording](#) will be available soon and available to all on our website.

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

National

New quiz – How to provide video consults

The University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy's Pharmacy5in5 series has released a new resource on [conducting virtual visits with patients](#), with embedded links to free articles and resources from the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) — useful whether you work in a hospital, community pharmacy or primary care clinic.

Shifting from 90-day prescription refills to 30-day a necessary temporary measure — CAPDM

In an [open letter](#) to pharmaceutical stakeholders, Daniel Chiasson, president & CEO of the Canadian Association for Pharmacy Distribution Management (CAPDM), says the association strongly supports the 30-day supply limits for medications. "The shift from 90-day prescription refills to 30-day enables the broader pharmaceutical supply chain community to better manage supply," the letter says. "These are necessary measures to effectively counter the substantial increase in demand and protect supply for Canadians in the short and medium-term."

International

European Commission calls on member states to ensure access to medications

The European Commission is [calling on its member states](#) to ensure that Europeans have access to essential medicines during the coronavirus outbreak. It is recommending that its members limit dispensing and sales of certain prescription and non-prescription medicines, for example, by allowing only a 30-day supply of prescription medicines, or a maximum of one package per customer of non-prescription medications.

RPS welcomes provisions protecting pharmacy workers

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPS) has [welcomed confirmation](#) that all pharmacists and pharmacy team

members are covered by the provisions of the Assaults on Emergency Workers Act 2018. The legislation, which applies to England and Wales, enables judges to apply more severe sentences to those found guilty of any physical attacks on emergency or health care workers. "When attacks are of a physical nature it is vitally important the pharmacists and their teams have reassurance that the law is there to protect them," says RPS president Sandra Gidley.

WHPA calls on immediate G20 action to secure PPE for health personnel

The World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) has written an [open letter to G20 leaders](#) calling for coordinated action to ensure the security of the supply chain of personal protective equipment (PPE) for all health professionals and health care workers on the front line against COVID-19. The letter reads, in part: "Only by acting in cooperation, across borders, will we be able to ensure that PPE reaches those who are literally putting their lives on the line to save our people from coronavirus. And there is no room for destructive competition between countries... Make no mistake, if the G20 does not act now to secure the PPE supply chain more nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, dentists and other frontline caregivers will die, as we are seeing increasing infection rates of the virus amongst these vital staff." CPhA is a member of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), which belongs to the WHPA. WHPA represents more than 31 million health professionals worldwide in 130 countries.

New measures give pharmacists options to provide medications

Both the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia have [welcomed a series of measures](#) announced last weekend by the Queensland government, which give the state's pharmacists a number of new options to provide medicines to those impacted by the ongoing pandemic. Some of the measures announced have not yet been seen in other states and territories. Changes to the Drug Therapy Protocol include adjustments to the Communicable Diseases and Pharmacist Vaccination Programs to provide greater scope for pharmacists to administer vaccinations and prescribe certain medicines to patients, if a prescriber is unavailable. The Therapeutic Goods Administration is also developing a protocol to enable pharmacists to supply alternate medicines to a patient if supplies of a usual medicine are unavailable due to drug shortages caused by the pandemic.

US pharmacies offering on-site COVID-19 testing

Pharmacists in the US can now [order and administer COVID-19 tests](#) to their patients, and several big chains will be offering test sites. Rapid COVID-19 testing will be available to eligible individuals who meet criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pharmacies are using a rapid COVID-19 test from Abbott Laboratories approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Walgreens is adding 15 drive-through COVID test sites in 7 states, while CVS Health announced initiatives for testing centres in 3 states, with further pop-up pharmacy support in New Orleans and other locations to come.

Newsorthy

How pharmacies are changing to provide medications safely

In this [report from CBC Newfoundland and Labrador](#), Debbie Kelly, a pharmacy professor at Memorial University, says she knows of pharmacists who have taken matters into their own hands to ensure people get the medicine they need without putting themselves at risk. "I heard a story of a pharmacist who actually went out and bought the Square [point of sale] device for their phone so they could personally deliver the prescriptions and take payment so that person didn't have to leave their home," she says.

Pharmacists struggle to fill gaps in strained health care system

Some Canadian pharmacists say they are [struggling to fill gaps in a strained health care system](#), leaving them to deal with patients who are anxious to avoid medical clinics and emergency rooms. The patients, they say, are calling or coming into pharmacies looking for easily accessible or face-to-face medical advice at a time when many medical clinics aren't allowing walk-ins and physicians are doing some assessments over the phone or online. "On the one hand, pharmacists are so happy to be there for their patients, to be on the front line to provide that support. On the other hand... I think there's a lot of exhaustion and burnout," says Kelly Grindrod, an associate professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Waterloo.

Worth Repeating

“The drugs that we’re using are so fundamental to the care we provide to critically ill patients that we cannot even conceive of them not being available. If someone told me, ‘Sorry, we’re out of Propofol,’ I would say ‘What the hell are you talking about?’ We haven’t run out of any of these drugs but the burn rate is such that we’re having to employ conservation strategies actively.” — Dr. Michael Warner, head of the ICU at Toronto’s Michael Garron Hospital on the use of anesthetic drugs being used in higher volumes for COVID-19 patients.

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.

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