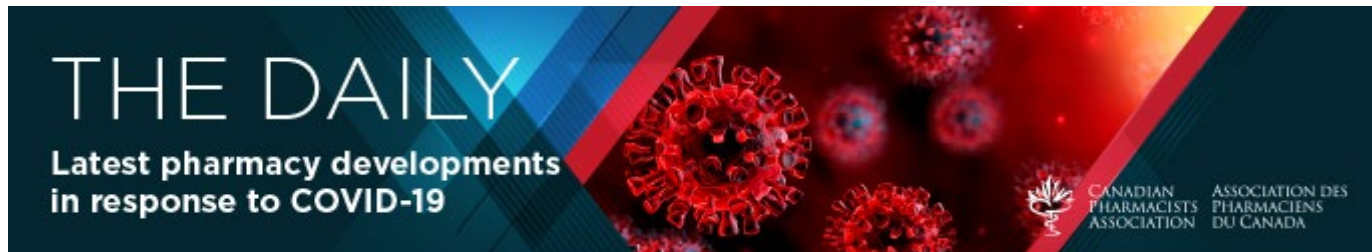


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: April 15, 2020 4:54 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 15



April 15, 2020

CPhA

CPhA/CPJ seeking your #SteppingUp stories from the front lines

During these difficult times, pharmacists and their teams have stepped up on the front lines to provide care to stressed and frightened members of their communities. CPhA and the *Canadian Pharmacists Journal (CPJ)* want to highlight your efforts, innovations and challenges. Visit our [website](#) for submission requirements. Deadline is **April 24**.

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

Provincial

RxA to manage PPE distribution to pharmacies in Alberta

The Alberta government is working to expedite distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) for facilities that are not part of the Alberta Health Services (AHS). In a [news release](#), the government noted that the Provincial Operations Centre will be distributing more than 1500 orders of PPE over the next few days, and that the Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA) will be managing distribution of PPE to 1400 pharmacies in the province.

National

Painkillers and sedatives may reach critical shortage says emergency physicians group

Painkillers and sedatives are potentially weeks away from a "critical shortage," the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) said in a [news release](#). "This would have significant clinical impact and therefore requires immediate investigation and action," the release states. The group adds that while the issue of ventilator access has been particularly dire, some attention needs to be paid to the supply of the medications required in managing the ventilated patients.

International

New J&J online series: The Road to a Vaccine

Johnson & Johnson (J&J) has launched an eight-episode series, [The Road to a Vaccine](#), which will broadcast online Tuesdays at 12pm ET. The series focuses on the company's efforts to find a vaccine for the virus that causes COVID-19. Lisa Ling, of CNN's *This Is Life*, is the host of the program. In the first episode, Ling interviews scientists and health care workers about how vaccines work, the impact of the novel coronavirus and what's being done globally to create a COVID-19 vaccine.

Health care providers ask for release of medications used in lethal injections to treat COVID patients

Pharmacists, public health experts, and front-line ICU doctors from across the US wrote an [open letter](#) to states that allow the death penalty asking them to release certain medicines used for lethal injection to treat COVID-19 patients, [The Hill](#) reports. Drugs used in lethal injections include 4 listed on shortage by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists: fentanyl,

midazolam, vecuronium bromide and rocuronium bromide. Midazolam and fentanyl are used to sedate patients relying on a mechanical ventilator and the other drugs are used in intensive care units for ventilation and intubation.

FIP issues call to action to support pharmacists

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has issued a [Call to Action](#) to support front-line pharmacy teams during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is asking governments and other stakeholders to implement urgent measures so that pharmacists can play an even greater role in the fight against COVID-19. FIP's recommended measures include recognition for pharmacists and pharmacy staff as key workers, access to appropriate protective equipment, tests for coronavirus, funding for home delivery of medicines to patients who must stay at home, identification of and mitigation plans for medicines at risk of shortages, and financial aid to pharmacies in the event of temporary closure for health reasons.

Public Health England changes guidance on wearing masks in community pharmacy amid confusion

Public Health England (PHE) has changed its [guidance on personal protective equipment](#) (PPE) amid confusion around when pharmacists should be wearing fluid-resistant (Type IIR) surgical masks (FRSMs). The guidance, which was initially published on April 2, was updated on April 10 to recommend that pharmacy staff should wear PPE only when in "contact with possible or confirmed cases of COVID-19." The original version of the guidance made no mention of possible cases, and simply stated that FRSMs were recommended if social distancing could not be maintained.

Volunteers, medicine deliveries and what if it all goes wrong?

Does the use of volunteers to deliver medicines create an unacceptable level of risk to the most vulnerable patients? The editors of Scotland's Pharmacy in Practice (PIP) publication [debate the issue](#).

Newsworthy

Concerns grow about supply of drugs for COVID-19 patients on ventilators

The [supplies of some drugs](#) required to keep COVID-19 patients on ventilators are low enough that hospitals in Ontario are taking steps to conserve their use. While hospitals say they are not facing an immediate shortage, the rate at which the most severely ill COVID-19 patients consume the drugs is raising fears that the existing supply of certain medications will run out in a matter of weeks. "Certainly the potential is there for some very significant shortages in these medications," says Christina Adams, chief pharmacy officer of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Worth Repeating

"This is not forever, but it is for now." — BC's chief medical officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry

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. 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.