

**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** April 17, 2020 5:24 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 17



**April 17, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***CPhA position misrepresented in recent article on 30-day limit***

The *Winnipeg Free Press* published an article on April 16, [Pharmacists criticized for 30-day limit on prescriptions](#), that unfortunately included a misrepresented reference to CPhA's position on the 30-day supply. While CPhA supplied a written statement in response to the request from the media outlet, the reference published in the article was not reflective of CPhA's position or the [statement we provided](#). We requested a correction from the *Winnipeg Free Press*, which was made on April 17.

### ***CPhA Release: Pharmacists see spikes in drug shortages during pandemic***

CPhA issued a [media release](#) on April 17 highlighting the threat that COVID-19 poses to Canada's drug supply, and voicing concerns about dramatic increases and volatility in the number of reported drug shortages recently. The number of shortages reported to Canada's drug shortage website has climbed steadily throughout March, but increased dramatically in the last few weeks. From March 24 to April 7, an average of 11.6 shortages were reported to the database each day. During the week of March 31 to April 7, this number increased to 15.9 shortages per day. Although these do not necessarily translate to shortages at the pharmacy level, this is an alarming trend.

### ***Inhaled salbutamol shortage document now available***

CPhA and medSask developed [this document](#) to assist health care providers in managing patient care during the current [salbutamol shortage](#). A French version will be available soon.

### ***CPhA launches national survey of community pharmacists and practice challenges during COVID-19***

CPhA has launched a survey of Canadian community pharmacists on pharmacy practice challenges during COVID-19. The brief survey asks about key issues and experiences on the front lines of the pandemic with the aim of better understanding the challenges they face as they care for patients and informing our efforts to provide tools and resources and advocate for government protections and supports. The survey will be open until 11:59pm ET on Tuesday, April 21 and is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

### ***New resource available: Staffing and Business Considerations if a Pharmacy Team Member Becomes Ill***

CPhA and the Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada have developed a list of key considerations for pharmacy managers/owners to help them prepare for next steps if a pharmacy staff member is exposed to or infected with COVID-19. This document will help pharmacies prepare for staff reductions or store closures and offers guidance on staff reductions, self-assessment and connecting with local public health units. Staffing and Business Considerations if a Pharmacy Team Member Becomes Ill is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

### ***The COVID Conversations: Supporting Pharmacists' Mental Health and Wellness***

Front-line health care providers are at increased risk of moral injury when dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pharmacists and their teams may be struggling with maintaining mental health and wellness while caring for their patients during this time. Join us on Wednesday, April 22 at 6pm ET for our latest COVID Conversations webinar where host Shelita Dattani will speak with a panel of pharmacists and mental health experts about strategies and tips to support pharmacy teams during the pandemic. Panellists include Jean-François Desgagné (Pharmacie Desgagné et Martin), Anita Gupta (Rehabilitation Psychologist), Heather Scarlett-Ferguson (Alberta Pharmacists' Association) and Karen Sue-A-Quan (Hospital for Sick Children). [Registration is now open.](#)

CPhA's COVID-19 web pages are being updated regularly at [www.pharmacists.ca/covid19](http://www.pharmacists.ca/covid19) and [www.pharmacists.ca/covid19fr](http://www.pharmacists.ca/covid19fr).

## Provincial

### ***PANL offers prescription bag notes***

The Pharmacists' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL) has developed prescription bag notes that outline the co-pay structure for provincial 65Plus Plan. These may be printed on 8.5 x 11 paper, with 4 notes per sheet. There are 2 versions available – one for [pharmacies that offer delivery](#) and one [for pharmacies that do not offer delivery](#).

## National

### ***COVID-19 and professional scopes of practice***

The C.D. Howe Institute says that allowing health professionals like pharmacists and nurse practitioners broader authority to diagnose and prescribe for patients with relatively uncomplicated health problems would leave physicians more time to deal with COVID patients. "The scopes of practice of pharmacists and nurse practitioners have been expanding for years prior to the current crisis – allowing these professionals to deliver more routine care, such as administering flu vaccinations, for example," [the article states](#). "Some provinces have already taken the additional step in expanding scope of practice to ensure continuity of care by relaxing restrictions on pharmacists for renewing prescriptions."

### ***Health Canada temporarily approves use of technical-grade ethanol in hand sanitizer products***

Health Canada is [temporarily approving](#) the use of technical-grade ethanol for the production of hand sanitizer. Canadian hand sanitizers are normally made with food-grade ethanol or United States Pharmacopeia (USP) ethanol; however, the change is being made after [Statistics Canada data](#) showed that sales of hand sanitizer in Canada increased by 700% in March. Technical-grade ethanol has more impurities than USP and food-grade ethanol, including acetaldehyde. Hand sanitizers containing acetaldehyde can pose health risks if used more frequently and for a longer period than directed.

## International

### ***Police advise on crime and security during COVID-19***

The National Business Crime Centre, a UK organization hosted within the Metropolitan Police Service, has published [new security advice for pharmacies](#) during COVID-19. The document includes advice on security of premises, opening and closing times, secure storage, customers and deliveries, and ensuring any incidents are reported to the police. The new advice was issued following a call with a national police lead and other pharmacy organizations on how the police can engage with and support pharmacy staff on the front line.

### ***Medication reviews via telehealth to better protect Australians***

Australians will be better supported in efforts to avoid medicine-related harm during the COVID-19 pandemic following [an announcement](#) that pharmacists will be able to undertake a MedsCheck, Diabetes MedsCheck, Home Medicines Review or Residential Medication Management Review via telehealth. In a move that has been strongly supported by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), the Australian government announced that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, where a patient has been identified as eligible, medication reviews can take place via video or teleconference beginning April 21. PSA national president Chris Freeman said this measure will ensure those most vulnerable in the community are able to remain isolated but

still receive vitally important medicine reviews.

## **Newsworthy**

### ***Pharmacists need our help during COVID-19 say pharmacy students***

A group of Ontario pharmacy students have [launched an initiative](#) to help local front-line pharmacists and workers risking their own health in the fight against COVID-19. “Ontario pharmacists are facing many challenges with a massive influx of patients needing support during this pandemic,” Mayur Tailor, the founder of Pharm Against COVID-19, says.

## **Worth Repeating**

“There’s been all this talk about ventilators, but what’s been missed is that in order to ventilate patients, you have to sedate them. When you increase the use of ventilators, you increase the use of the drugs. And there are no infinite stocks.” — Dr. Marat Slessarev, critical care physician at the London Health Sciences Centre and assistant professor of medicine at Western University in [an article in the Financial Post](#)

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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