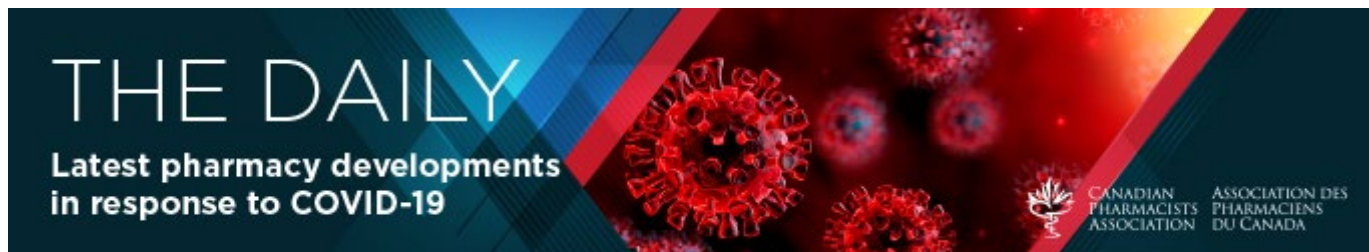


**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** April 23, 2020 5:14 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 23



**April 23, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***The COVID Conversations: COVID-19 and the Global Experience webinar registration now open***

Pharmacy staff are on the front lines of the global COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to provide exceptional care to their patients. This session will give Canadian pharmacists the opportunity to learn from the experiences of pharmacy staff in some of the hardest hit countries around the world. Join us on **April 28 at 10 a.m. EDT** for our latest COVID Conversations webinar, where host Shelita Dattani will speak with a panel of international pharmacy leaders and about the realities of providing pharmacy care in a crisis situation. Featured guests include Sonia Ruiz Morán, director of international affairs at General Pharmaceutical Council of Spain (Spain); Jaime Acosta Gómez, community pharmacist at Acosta Pharmacy (Spain); Sham Moodley, chair at Independent Community Pharmacy Association (South Africa); and Raj Patel, CEO at Hollowood Chemists Limited (UK).

[Registration is now open.](#)

### ***Webinar recording now available: Supporting Pharmacists' Mental Health and Wellness***

The full recording of CPhA's latest COVID Conversations webinar, [Supporting Pharmacists' Mental Health and Wellness](#), is now available on our website. This session featured panellists Jean-François Desgagné (Pharmacie Desgagné et Martin), Anita Gupta (Clinical, Health & Rehabilitation Psychologist), Heather Scarlett-Ferguson (Alberta Pharmacists' Association) and Karen Wong (Hospital for Sick Children), who spoke with host Shelita Dattani about strategies and tips to support pharmacy teams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Updated statement on use of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19***

CPhA continues to update our drug therapy information as new evidence comes to light regarding COVID-19. We've recently updated our statement on the use of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine in patients with COVID-19. The statement is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

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**

### ***OPA and CARP urge immediate action on seniors' co-payments***

A [joint letter](#) sent to the Ontario government from the Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) and the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) urges immediate action on providing relief for seniors on prescription co-payments. "Given that the 30-day dispensing policy is intended to protect our supply chain, it is wrong for the costs to protect our drug supply to fall to Ontario's seniors or the pharmacy profession. Accordingly, CARP's over 200,000 Ontario seniors along with the province's 20,000+ pharmacy professionals are asking for immediate and full coverage of all ODB copayments by the Ontario government. Collectively, we need this relief and support of the government," the letter reads.

### ***New Brunswick government removes 30-day limit on prescription drugs where shortages do not exist***

The New Brunswick government has [announced](#) the removal of the 30-day limit on drugs where shortages do not exist, citing the need to ensure vulnerable populations are not put at risk of having to choose between paying for medications and buying groceries or paying rent. Recognizing pharmacy's concerns around protecting the drug supply, the government also announced that it will create a working group that will identify drugs most at risk of experiencing a shortage and implement a 30-day limitation where necessary. Premier Blaine Higgs praised pharmacists in the province for their co-operation and collaboration on this complex issue.

## **National**

### ***CADTH: What does the evidence say about COVID-19?***

The Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) has launched a [new web portal](#) featuring evidence, tools, and resources covering a range of COVID-19 topics, including prevention, testing and treatment. Although some of the information predates the COVID-19 pandemic, all of it is timely and relevant to the current situation. CADTH will be updating and expanding this site regularly as new evidence becomes available.

### ***IMC: Unprecedented collaboration to find COVID-19 treatments***

The race to find treatments for those already infected is critical, says Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC) in [an article](#) on the potential treatments for COVID-19. IMC notes that "in these unprecedented times, we're seeing unprecedented collaboration in the biopharmaceutical industry as companies, researchers, governments and others work together to try and find solutions to help patients."

## **International**

### ***Pharma CEOs warn of need for upfront funding for treatments, testing and vaccines***

Pharmaceutical chief executives leading efforts to tackle coronavirus have warned governments to step up coordination and provide substantial upfront funding if treatments, vaccines and testing are to be rolled out faster and fairly, the [Financial Times](#) says. Executives fear that without greater funding and scientific guidance on how to allocate supplies fairly, they will be unable to purchase sufficient raw materials, support production of existing medicines and rapidly scale up their capacity to meet global demand.

### ***Fast-track drug monitoring system launched***

The European Medicines Agency launched an "enhanced fast-track monitoring system" to head off potential supply issues for drugs used to treat patients with COVID-19, [Regulatory Focus](#) says. Under the system, each pharmaceutical company will appoint a single contact who will report all current and anticipated shortages in medicines used in patients with COVID-19 to the agency and national authorities. A first phase focuses on hospital medicines in high demand and a second phase will cover shortages related to a broader range of medicines.

### ***Misuse of disinfectants results in sharp increase in calls to poison centres***

When coronavirus spread across the country last month, Americans [bought disinfecting supplies](#) like bleach and wipes in bulk, but many may have been misusing them. According to [Forbes](#), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that calls to poison centres increased sharply in the month of March. Data shows that poison centres received 45,550 exposure calls related to cleaners and disinfectants between January and March, a 20% increase compared to the same period in 2019.

### ***ASHP self-care resource: Tips for taking care of yourself***

As pharmacists, pharmacy residents, student pharmacists and pharmacy technicians continue to care for patients during the pandemic, it's imperative to step up personal wellness efforts. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) has published a new resource to support mental health and well-being, [Tips for Taking Care of Yourself during COVID-19](#).

## **Newsworthy**

### ***Pharmacies cautioned about possible scams as protective equipment remains scarce***

Finding protective equipment such as masks and eye protection is still a big challenge for BC pharmacies operating during the pandemic, and now they're also being cautioned about avoiding [possible scammers](#) who could try to take advantage of the situation. Bryce Wong, director of pharmacy practice support and special projects at the BC Pharmacy Association, told CTV News they are now working to screen potential providers and compile a list of reputable sources of available safety gear, which remains in short supply.

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.