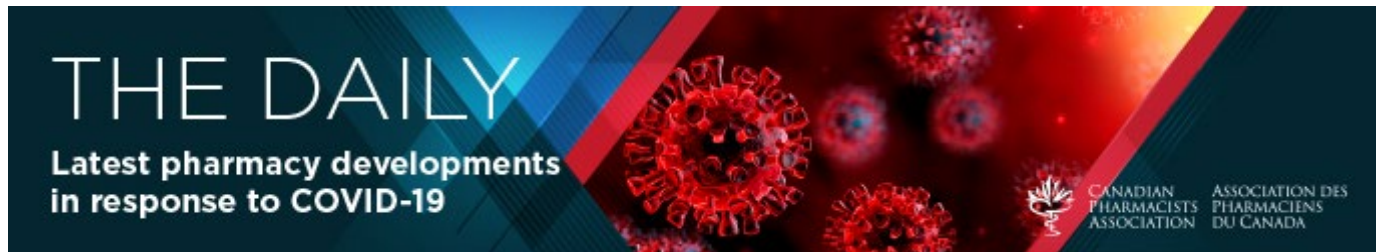


**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** April 27, 2020 5:31 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 27



**April 27, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***Show the world a day in your #PharmacyLifeCA***

Canadian pharmacy teams are really stepping up and we want to see what life is like for you right now! On **Thursday, April 30**, tweet or Facebook post [one photo that describes a day in your life](#) during COVID-19. Use the hashtag #PharmacyLifeCA and tag @CPhAAPHc to join the conversation. 1 day. 1 photo. Show the world what you're doing in your #PharmacyLifeCA.

### ***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 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 (United Kingdom).

[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**

### ***NBCP slams province for reversal of 30-day prescription renewal directive***

The New Brunswick College of Pharmacists (NBCP) has [slammed the NB government's decision](#) to remove the 30-day limit for prescription drugs. Registrar Sam Lanctin says in a statement: "We are gravely disappointed in this decision... [Thursday's] political decision may have severe ramifications down the road." Lanctin adds that the problem of drug shortages won't go away by ignoring warnings from manufacturers and distributors. "It doesn't take much to disrupt a supply chain and limiting supplies in the short term was and still is the right thing to do," Lanctin says. "We are especially concerned with ongoing issues in India and China, where many of the ingredients for medications are sourced."

## **National**

### ***Health Canada issues warning about use of hydroxychloroquine***

In an [advisory](#) issued over the weekend, Health Canada is warning that chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine may cause serious side effects, including heart rhythm problems. The risk of these side effects may increase at higher doses, or if the drugs are used in combination with other drugs, such as the antibiotic azithromycin. Patients should use these drugs only under the supervision of a physician. Health Canada is concerned that some people may be directly buying and using chloroquine and

hydroxychloroquine to prevent or treat COVID-19 without a prescription. CPhA has produced [additional guidance \(en français\)](#) on this issue, and will continue to update the statement as new evidence is available.

### ***COVID-19 global supply chain disruptions – a catalyst for long-term changes?***

COVID-19 continues to claim lives and create economic turmoil around the world. The pandemic is also disrupting supply chains, deterring business investment and stymying consumer spending. In a new report, [COVID-19 Global Supply Chain Disruptions – A Catalyst for Long-Term Changes?](#), the Conference Board of Canada explores the challenges businesses are facing and emerging opportunities that will put businesses in a more solid position to face the new economic, business and technological realities once the crisis is over.

## **International**

### ***APhA running public service announcement cautioning about fake products***

In its continued efforts to keep communities healthy and informed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) is running a [public service announcement](#) that cautions consumers and patients about fake and sub-standard COVID-19 products and associated scams.

### ***NY governor signs executive order to allow pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests***

New York governor Andrew Cuomo [issued an executive order](#) allowing pharmacists to order and administer tests for COVID-19 and its antibodies for patients with suspected COVID-19 or suspected of having recovered from the virus. The order is intended to significantly expand access to testing in New York and reflects an increasing recognition of the role pharmacists will play in expanding access to testing services.

### ***FDA issues drug safety statement on hydroxychloroquine***

The US Food and Drug Administration issued a [Drug Safety Communication](#) regarding known side effects of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, including serious and potentially life-threatening heart rhythm problems, that have been reported with their use for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19, for which they are not approved by the FDA. These risks, which are in the drug labels for their approved uses, may be mitigated when health care professionals closely screen and supervise these patients such as in a hospital setting or a clinical trial, as indicated in the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for these drugs to treat COVID-19.

### ***Pharmacy never more important: FIP***

Pharmacists play a [critical role in protecting the public](#) from inappropriate advice and misinformation around medicines, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) CEO, Catherine Duggan, believes. Speaking during a FIP COVID-19 webinar, Duggan says the pandemic has heightened the focus on patient safety in the pharmacy sector. “Patient safety’s never [been] more important than now,” she says. “If we think about where we are in our different countries, in our different localities, as we face this global pandemic, patient safety risks are becoming more heightened than ever.”

## **Newsworthy**

### ***Une pharmacienne au coeur de la crise***

Des milliers de personnes qui travaillent dans les services essentiels continuent de se présenter au boulot tous les jours, malgré les risques que ça représente. La pharmacienne de Lévis Mélissa Béland, elle, [suscite l'admiration](#) de ses employés pour sa proactivité dans la crise.

## **Worth Repeating**

“In the middle of a pandemic, I do not think it is appropriate to attack front-line workers such as pharmacists when they are putting their lives on the line, ensuring that people are able to get their life-saving medications. A few weeks ago, a rationing program was wisely recommended by the Canadian Pharmacists Association, not as a money grab as Dr. Tenenbein has

portrayed it, but as an attempt to ensure that there was no hoarding of medications, and that everyone would have what they need when they need it.” — Dr Diarmuid Decter in a letter to the editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press* in response to an earlier letter on prescription limits

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.