

From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: April 7, 2020 5:03 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 7



April 7, 2020

CPhA

CPhA appears before Standing Committee on Health

CPhA's Barry Power and Shelita Dattani joined representatives from the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions and the Canadian Medical Association to update the Standing Committee on Health (HESA) on the Canadian response to COVID-19. CPhA provided a pharmacy perspective to the pandemic, highlighting the crucial role front-line pharmacists are playing caring for patients, how it is crucial for us to protect the drug supply chain to avoid shortages and advocating for protections for pharmacists (including PPE). You can read [CPhA's remarks](#) on our website or listen to the audio recording ([English](#) and [French](#)) on the HESA website.

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

National

Teva Canada committed to Canadian caregivers

In recognition of National Caregiver Day on April 7, Teva Canada announced an expansion of free resources and programs for caregivers as demand grows due to COVID-19. In a [news release](#), Teva Canada acknowledged all caregivers and the critical work they provide to the health care system, and highlighted their [Caregiver-Friendly Pharmacy \(CFP\)](#) program. The online program includes accredited training for pharmacy teams and online resources for caregivers, including a mapping tool that helps caregivers find local pharmacies that specialize in their needs. Since launching nationally less than a year ago, the CFP has provided training to more than 1600 on how to make the care experience easier.

Pharmacy 5in5: COVID-19, methadone and buprenorphine

A [new quiz](#) is available on the Pharmacy 5in5 platform, exploring how pharmacists can help patients manage methadone and buprenorphine when patients should be staying home. [Pharmacy 5in5](#) is an online learning platform designed by pharmacists for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to test knowledge and understanding of ongoing trends in pharmacy and health care.

Whole Health Pharmacy Partners webinars open to all

Whole Health Pharmacy Partners recently hosted [Financial Relief for Pharmacists During COVID-19](#) to help pharmacists understand some of the major opportunities for pharmacists and pharmacy owners, including tax payment deferrals and wage subsidies. The recording is now available to all. Their next webinar, [COVID-19 Interview with Italian Pharmacists](#), is also open to all and will take place Wednesday, April 8 at 3pm ET.

International

EU member states introduce measures to reduce supply chain shortages

Some European Union (EU) member states have indicated that they are starting to see shortages of medications used for patients with COVID-19 or are expecting such shortages to occur very soon. These include drugs used in intensive care units, such as anaesthetics, antibiotics and muscle relaxants, as well as medicines being used off-label for COVID-19. As a result, EU authorities are putting additional measures in place to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the medication supply chain in a coordinated manner. To help mitigate supply disruptions, the EU Executive Steering Group on Shortages of Medicines Caused by Major Events, which provides strategic leadership for urgent and coordinated action on shortages within the EU, is currently collaborating with the pharmaceutical industry to set up a [system to fast-track interaction on shortages](#) between industry and the EU Executive Steering Group.

NHS volunteers to begin delivering medicines amid safety concerns for vulnerable patients

In the UK, pharmacies will be able to ask for help with medicine delivery through an online portal, but there have been [concerns](#) that fraudsters could exploit this system. Pharmacies will be able upload requests for help with deliveries and National Health Service (NHS)–approved volunteers will be able to choose the job they want to do that day and close the task once complete. However, major concerns about the scheme have emerged from pharmacy leaders, warning that it could be used by fraudsters preying on vulnerable people.

Australian pharmacies gearing up for flu season amidst pandemic

Pharmacists in Australia [have reported](#) vast numbers of people getting their flu shots early this season after the federal government urged the public to get their shots as soon as possible. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia says the increased demand for flu shots is due both to the COVID-19 health crisis and the severity of last year’s flu season. The guild’s communications director, Greg Turnbull, says the coronavirus pandemic means more people are paying attention to their health and realizing the value of being vaccinated against the flu. Health authorities have been particularly concerned about the flu this year because of the strain it could place on hospitals, which are already bracing for a surge in coronavirus patients.

Celebrate #PharmacyHeroes

Pharmacy Heroes is a new website launched to [celebrate and recognize pharmacists around the world](#) during the pandemic outbreak. Supported by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the organization is inviting colleagues to speak up for the profession and especially pharmacists on the front line.

States taking steps to prevent hydroxychloroquine hoarding

States across the US are taking steps to prevent hoarding of decades-old antimalarial drugs being used to combat COVID-19, an effort to preserve supplies for other patients who rely on the drugs to treat lupus and arthritis, [The Wall Street Journal](#) says. At least 20 states are implementing emergency restrictions or guidelines to ease pressure on supplies of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine for the autoimmune disease patients. Some states are limiting prescription sizes or asking pharmacists to make sure a patient has tested positive for the coronavirus.

Newsworthy

Read about a new COVID-19 treatment study? It probably won't work

A new Australian study released on Friday showing the anti-parasite treatment ivermectin eliminated the coronavirus in a test tube led to a surge in demand at some pharmacies for the prescription-only drug, [The Sydney Morning Herald reports](#). Some pharmacies are now reporting shortages. “Hydroxychloroquine last week, ivermectin this week, and it will be something else next week,” said Dr. Gaetan Burgio, head of an infectious diseases lab at the Australian National University.

Worth Repeating

“What we saw was that the volume of demand increased by over 200% in March threatening the integrity of our drug supply chain. If left unchecked, we would have run the risk of running out of medications for our patients.” —Barry Power, senior director, digital content at CPhA explaining the need for 30-day supply limits before today’s Standing Committee on Health (HESA)

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.