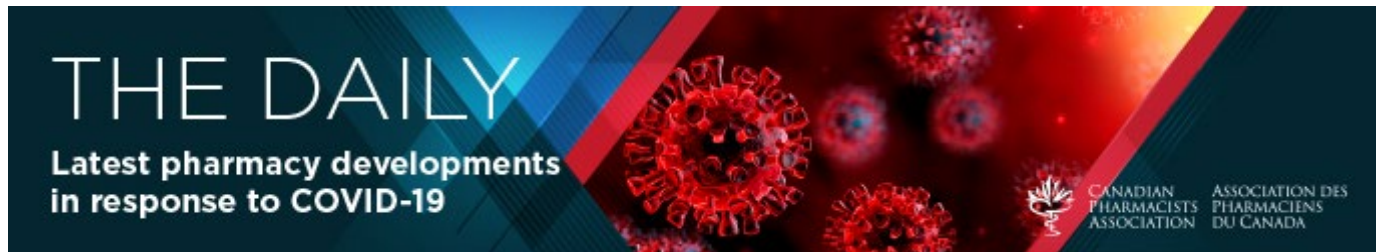


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: April 8, 2020 5:03 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 8



April 8, 2020

CPhA

CPhA, Diabetes Canada address insulin supply issues

In a [joint statement](#) released today, CPhA and Diabetes Canada provide assurances that both organizations are actively monitoring Canada's insulin supply. "We have been in touch with governments and manufacturers, who are all committed to ensuring that insulin and other necessary medications remain available for all Canadians," they say. The statement advises patients to fill prescriptions for only what they need in order to help to ensure that others also have access to what they need. "During these extraordinary times, people are asked to refill prescriptions for a maximum of 30 days and to not stockpile medications or supplies."

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

Provincial

BCPhA opioid agonist treatment medications resource

The BC Pharmacy Association has put together a [resource](#) to help pharmacists understand the changes announced by the College of Pharmacists of BC on March 26, 2020, to permit pharmacists to act in the best interests of patients who require controlled drugs and substances, including opioid agonist treatment medications.

NB open letter addresses 30-day supply

New Brunswick's physicians and pharmacists support efforts to protect the province's drug supply during the COVID-19 pandemic by limiting prescriptions to 30 days. In an [open letter](#), the New Brunswick Medical Society and New Brunswick Pharmacists' Association are urging citizens to respect and understand this temporary but necessary measure to protect the drug supply for all. In the last few weeks, pharmacists in New Brunswick and across Canada have seen a tremendous surge in demand for medical supplies and medications as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists has directed all pharmacists to limit prescriptions to a 30-day supply as a temporary measure.

National

CAPDM recommends continued 30-day supply until inventories stabilize

The Canadian Association for Pharmacy Distribution Management (CAPDM) supplies pharmacies and hospitals with essential medicines. It has written a [memo](#) to the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA), the national regulatory body, to strongly encourage pharmacy stakeholders to continue recommending the 30-day medication supply until medication inventories begin to stabilize.

Roche Canada launches Data Science Coalition to advance COVID-19 solutions

Roche Canada has launched the [Roche Data Science Coalition](#), a group of like-minded public and private organizations committed to working with the global community to develop solutions to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The coalition has developed a centralized location for curated, publicly available population datasets, which will be gathered from sources across the globe and used to enhance COVID-19 research. This will focus on informing the management of the global pandemic, as well as providing the scientific and research community with a robust foundation for current and future COVID-19 patient-level data work.

International

Australian pharmacy guild, diabetes organizations provide reassurances over availability of insulin

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and diabetes organizations are [urging people](#) with the condition to continue their usual insulin purchasing practices and not stockpile or refill prescriptions more frequently. The guild, with Diabetes Australia, JDRF Australia, the Australian Diabetes Society, the Australian Diabetes Educators Association and the Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group, has moved to reassure people with diabetes about the availability of insulin. The national president of the pharmacy guild, George Tambassis, says there is no national shortage of insulin. “This has been confirmed by the Department of Health but what we are seeing in the current COVID-19 crisis is very high demand for medicines and products and some people have ordered more than they would normally need,” he says.

Additional funding for Scottish community pharmacies greenlit

In Scotland, [additional funding](#) of £5.5 million will be provided to community pharmacies to help them cope with increased pressures from COVID-19. Pharmacy workloads almost doubled during March, with increased prescriptions, staff overtime and a higher level of consultations all resulting in additional costs for the service.

RPS gets access to well-being support for all pharmacists

After extensive lobbying by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) for equal access for all pharmacists to NHS-funded mental health and well-being services, the National Health Service (NHS) England has confirmed that a [new mental health support line](#) will be available to pharmacy teams across all health care settings as part of a package of measures to support staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

German pharmacies to be reimbursed for delivery services

The Federal Union of German Associations of Pharmacists (ABDA) welcomes [new regulations](#) introduced, which provide, among other things, coverage for the costs of pharmacy courier services during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, in the event of delivery bottlenecks, it may provide therapeutic substitution. The regulations largely correspond to ABDA suggestions for securing the supply. This additional scope for dispensing medicines will reduce the number of patients in the pharmacy, prevent patients from having to return to the pharmacy in the event of a supply shortage, and support older people who are particularly at risk.

J&J experiencing temporary shortage of Tylenol in parts of US

Johnson & Johnson is experiencing a [temporary shortage](#) of Tylenol in some regions in the US due to record high demand. The shortage is occurring as the COVID-19 outbreak worsens across the US. To cope, the company is running production lines up to 24/7 to maximize supply. However, J&J is also working with retailers to encourage purchase limits and has built a supply strategy to ensure greater access to consumers and hospitals.

Newsworthy

Insultes, crachats et menaces : difficile d'être pharmacien en temps de pandémie

Professionnels essentiels durant cette crise, les pharmaciens font face à une [tension accrue](#) et à des agressions verbales.

Worth Repeating

"Now is a time to pay special attention to our elders... we protect them by connecting safely from a distance." — Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC's Provincial Health Officer.

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.