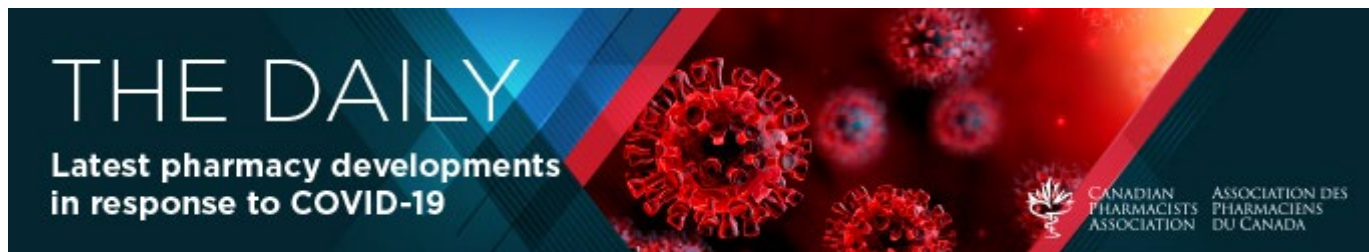


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: April 9, 2020 4:36 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 9



April 9, 2020

Please note: In recognition of the Easter weekend, The Daily will not be published on April 10 or 13. The next issue will be published on Tuesday, April 14.

CPhA

COVID Conversations: A day in the life of community pharmacists webinar registration now open

The next free live webinar in CPhA's COVID Conversations series will take place on **Tuesday, April 14** from 2-3pm ET. In this session, Shelita Dattani will host a panel of front-line pharmacists from across the country who will share stories about how daily practice and patient care has changed in community pharmacy during COVID-19. Speakers include Christina Tulk (Shoppers Drug Mart), Kimberly Sentes (Towers Pharmacy (PharmaChoice)) and Sukhpreet Poonia (Community Apothecary/Langley Memorial Hospital). [Registration](#) is now open.

New RxTx content: COVID-19

CPhA has developed a new chapter focused on [COVID-19](#). The chapter provides information for primary care practitioners on the management of common COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough and headache, as well as a summary of experimental treatments being used in acute-care settings. The content is available to RxTx subscribers, but is also available open access to all health providers. The information will be updated regularly as new evidence becomes available.

Pénurie de propionate de fluticasone en aérosol-doseur : maintenant disponible

L'APhC et medSask ont élaboré [ce document](#) pour aider les fournisseurs de soins de santé à gérer les soins aux patients pendant la pénurie actuelle de fluticasone.

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

Provincial

OPA releases letter to pharmacy patients

The Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) has written an [Open Letter to the Patients of Ontario Pharmacies](#) on how the recommendation to limit medications to 30 days is an important measure to help safeguard Canada's drug supply. The letter highlights how we can all work together to secure medication for all during the COVID-19 outbreak.

OPA offers pandemic tips video series

To help guide pharmacists through the COVID-19 outbreak, OPA has created a [series of video modules](#) that address some of the pressing questions and issues pharmacists are facing such as the 30-day medication supply, renewals, opioid agonist therapy, nutrition and hydroxychloroquine. New modules will be added regularly.

Information addressing drug shortages, 30-day supply, produced for members

The Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA) has produced a [Member Backgrounder on Measures to Prevent Medication Shortages](#) to support pharmacists and pharmacy teams in their discussions with patients. The document addresses frequently asked questions around drug shortages, the 30-day supply limits and dispensing fees. As well, the New Brunswick Pharmacists' Association (NBPA) has posted [FAQs \(en français\)](#) addressing the 30-day supply issue.

30-day supply ensures reliable supply of drugs

In an update to members, BCPhA president Keith Shaw reiterated the reasons for 30-day supply limits. He [writes](#): "The decision by most pharmacists in BC and across Canada to do this is driven by the need to ensure that there is a reliable supply of medications over the next few months for as many patients as possible. The demand for medications in communities and in hospitals in the last few weeks has risen dramatically. This rapid increase has made it difficult for pharmacies to get the amount of medications they need. Adding to the uncertainty, it remains unclear whether there will be more than the usual amount of drug shortages in the days and weeks ahead due to supply disruptions overseas. Dispensing 30 days' supply of medication is an action pharmacists are taking to ensure as many people as possible can access the medications they need now and in the next few, likely unpredictable, months."

National

IMC resource centre highlights innovative pharmaceutical industry

The Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC) online [resource centre \(en français\)](#) highlights how the innovative pharmaceutical industry is responding to the pandemic outbreak, providing important information on drug shortages and member initiative updates.

New partnership to share COVID-19 information

As Canadians seek trustworthy and clear information about COVID-19, the Canadian Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (Royal College) and the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) have launched a campaign that provides a way for Canadians to ask Canada's doctors about questions that are top of mind. [Questions and Answers on COVID-19](#) provides answers to questions submitted by Canadians of all ages, from parents worried about the symptoms that they should watch for in their kids to seniors who may want to understand how to better protect themselves. This project complements efforts underway by governmental organizations to stop the spread of the virus and bring sound public health guidance to the forefront.

International

APhA wants restrictions waived on pharmacist telehealth services

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) has [issued comments](#) recommending that secretary of Health and Human Services (HSS) Alex Azar use new authority under the CARES Act to waive restrictions currently preventing pharmacists from offering telehealth services under Medicare Part B during the COVID-19 outbreak. There are many opportunities to leverage pharmacists in telehealth service delivery across various Medicare programs. Pharmacists, in general, are underused for the medication- and health-related expertise they can provide to other providers, health care teams and patients. In rural and underserved areas, pharmacists may be the only health care provider accessible to beneficiaries. However, pharmacists are not currently recognized as practitioners (providers) under the Medicare Telehealth Benefit of the Social Security Act.

Guidance for pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 testing

The US Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health issued [new guidance](#) under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act authorizing licensed pharmacists to order and administer COVID-19 tests authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration. HHS secretary Alex Azar issued the following statement: "Giving pharmacists the authorization to order and administer COVID-19 tests to their patients means easier access to testing for Americans who need it. Pharmacists play a vital role in delivering convenient access to important public health services and information. The Trump Administration is pleased to

give pharmacists the chance to play a bigger role in the COVID-19 response.”

Pharmacist medication support to those released from prison

Pharmacies in the UK have been warned that prisoners released temporarily because of the COVID-19 pandemic may not have the medications or prescriptions that they may have been prescribed in prison. The Ministry of Justice [announced](#) that some prisoners who are within 2 months of the end of their sentences will be temporarily released. In a [letter to community pharmacies](#), chief pharmaceutical officer for England Keith Ridge encouraged pharmacies to use current regulatory and “usual community pharmacy and COVID-19 mechanisms and services” to supply urgent medicines to released patients to ensure access and avoid harm.

Maintaining physical distance challenging in community pharmacy

Legislation has been introduced in Wales to require businesses, including pharmacies, to take [reasonable measures](#) to keep a distance 2m between people on the premises or waiting to come in. But a spokesperson for Community Pharmacy Wales (CPW) said the legal requirement to maintain a two metre distance between staff members would be particularly challenging in some community pharmacies. “Pharmacies obviously don’t want to put staff in danger, but they also need to keep functioning during this time. We are working with the Welsh Government to better understand what ‘reasonable’ adjustments to working practices to accommodate the two metre rule actually mean.”

EU Commission publishes guidelines to optimize supply and prevent drug shortages

The European Union (EU) Commission is calling on its member states to ensure that Europeans have access to essential medicines during the coronavirus outbreak. The pandemic has highlighted significant challenges in ensuring the supply of the critical medicines and the impact such an outbreak can have on the supply chain of medicines in the EU. The [guidelines on the optimisation of supply of medicines during the COVID-19 outbreak](#) document focuses on the rational supply, allocation and use of vital medicines to treat coronavirus patients, as well as medicines that may be at risk of shortage due to the pandemic. The European Healthcare Distribution Association (GIRP) issued a [press release](#) supporting the guidelines.

Guidance released on ethical decision making

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has produced [new guidance](#) on ethical, professional decision making in the COVID-19 pandemic. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, like other health professionals, are working under extreme pressures during the current pandemic. These pressures are likely to get worse before they get better and may recur. Pharmacy staff are already having to make prioritization decisions and are planning for previously unseen situations.

Newsworthy

Pharmacists have been victims of physical and verbal assaults

In an [article](#) published in the *Montreal Gazette*, the Fédération des pharmaciens du Québec (FPQ) deplores that some pharmacists have been victims of physical and verbal assaults and threats from customers during the COVID-19 crisis. Cases have been reported daily. On its Facebook page, the FPQ published an article listing testimonies of pharmacists who confided through a private online group. An article published by Radio-Canada indicates that nearly 7 out of 10 pharmacists who testified said they had been verbally assaulted and slightly less than 1 in 10 had been physically assaulted.

Worth Repeating

“The number one thing not to do in a pandemic is your own hair.” — BC provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry joking after tinkering with her hairstyle.

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.