



Canadian
Pharmacists
Association

Association des
pharmaciens
du Canada

The Weekly

Bringing the world of pharmacy together

September 14, 2022

CPhA

Baby formula shortage: Updated resources

While Health Canada's efforts to import products to help alleviate the impact of the hypoallergenic baby formula shortage is helping to stabilize the supply situation, Health Canada continues to work to raise awareness about imported/available products with caregivers and health professionals. These products now represent a large proportion of current stock. To that end, Health Canada recently updated the [decision-tree resource](#) to include information about imported products and developed a [list of available products](#) that can be printed and used as signage on pharmacy shelves to help inform patients of what may be available. Information and material continue to be updated on CPhA's resource page for pharmacy professionals, which can be accessed in [English](#) and [French](#).

Pharmacy on the front lines

A day in the life: Émilie Lamoureux, primary care clinical pharmacist

Primary care clinical pharmacists (PCCPs), like Émilie Lamoureux, provide comprehensive medication management services for medically complex adult patients within Primary Care Networks (PCNs), [according to UBC News](#). Lamoureux is the PCCP for the East Kootenay PCN in the Interior Health Authority. She works in the Columbia Valley, situated between the Rocky and Purcell Mountains, in southeast BC. Before taking on the PCCP role, Lamoureux worked in community pharmacy practice in Invermere, BC. Clinics in the East Kootenays span a large geographic area—Lamoureux’s farthest community is a 3-hour drive from her home. Addressing the needs of rural communities is a unique challenge, so offering virtual care helps provide greater access. So far, clinics in Cranbrook, Creston, Elkford, Invermere, Kimberly and Sparwood are receiving support. She typically sees patients needing assistance with managing multiple medications, chronic diseases, mental health conditions or recent changes to their health. Lamoureux is also a Certified Diabetes Educator and has a special interest in helping people manage chronic pain, having lived with chronic pain for most of her life. Each case is unique, and she enjoys the challenge of figuring out optimal management strategies to meet individual patient needs.

Provincial

Naloxone kits are easy to use, readily available for community: pharmacist

Pharmacist Greg Bueckert, of Greg’s Remedy Drugs in Medicine Hat, Alberta, recommends naloxone kits be readily available at community sites where opioid overdoses are likely to occur. He also recommends kits be stored at home or where first aid kits are located, as overdoses are not limited to consistent users. “There [are] also accidental overdoses with people who are not abusers,” Bueckert [told CHAT News Today](#). “So, if somebody is using some high-potency or high dose narcotic, it does not hurt to have one in the home. It’s actually a good idea.” The naloxone drug itself works on narcotics such as fentanyl or heroin, and Bueckert said kits are always available at any local pharmacy. He estimates his pharmacy gives out close to 10 kits a week. “They’re put out into the community to protect the community,” he said.

PANS launches campaign to increase awareness of pharmacy services

The Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia (PANS) has launched a new campaign to improve patients' experience at pharmacies and increase awareness of services throughout the province, [CityNews reports](#). Allison Bodnar, the association's CEO, said health care has to adapt to face current challenges by utilizing its trained and educated providers and use modern technology to build a better system. "I think we have to look at a healthcare system model that was designed 60+ years ago and say, 'is it really working in today's environment, given technology and patient demand?'" In addition to the almost 16 million prescriptions pharmacists fill every year, Bodnar said they are also now doing prescription renewals, contraception management, UTI assessing and prescribing, chronic disease management, and a whole host of other services in which pharmacies are being funded to provide.

National

National incident data repository for community pharmacies released

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP) has [released](#) its first annual National Incident Data Repository for Community Pharmacies (NIDR) report sharing information about the types of medication incidents that have been reported by community pharmacies in Canada. It also includes findings and strategies for community pharmacists to create safer health care for patients and providers. The NIDR has more than 275 000 reports of medication incidents shared by community pharmacies since 2008. In a [tweet](#), ISMP Canada said it's committed to analyzing the reports and developing and disseminating learning, with the ultimate goal of improving health-care systems and medication safety.

LOVE YOU by Shoppers Drug Mart donates \$300,000 in support of Women's Shelters Canada

The LOVE YOU by Shoppers Drug Mart (SDM) program announced a \$300,000 donation to Women's Shelters Canada as part of the organization's ongoing commitment to advancing women's health equity. These funds will help fill an unmet need at a time when supports are desperately needed, [according to a news release](#). Historically, domestic violence increases at a time of economic uncertainty, and currently, Canadians are facing the highest cost of living since the 1980s. With the pandemic already exacerbating inequities

for women's health, it is the perfect storm. "Advancing women's health equity is an incredibly important issue, and something we are dedicated to supporting and raising awareness around," said Paulette Minard, the director of community investment at SDM. "We know that women are more susceptible to gender-based violence and while the grant program is not a solution to the complex issue of domestic violence, it is an important first step in supporting women and families across Canada, and our help is needed now more than ever."

Health Canada approves Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for kids 6 months to 4 years old

Last week, Health Canada approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in children between 6 months and 4 years old, [the Canadian Press reports](#). After a thorough and independent scientific review of the evidence, the federal department said it concluded the benefits of the Comirnaty vaccine outweigh the potential risks for kids. It's the second vaccine to be approved for that age group, after Moderna's Spikevax shot was approved in July. Health Canada said it's approving a 3-dose primary series of the vaccine for children under 5, with 3 weeks between the first and second doses and 8 weeks between the second and third doses.

Upcoming PHAC webinar for health-care providers on seasonal influenza immunization

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is collaborating with the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases to present a webinar informing health-care providers on the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's recommendations on seasonal influenza vaccine use for the 2022-2023 season. The [webinar](#) will take place on September 28, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm ET.

International

US: APhA, ASHP, NCPA, AMA voice concerns on state laws impacting patient access to medically necessary medications

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA), American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), and American Medical Association (AMA) are [concerned](#) about state laws that limit patients' access to medically necessary medications and impede physicians and pharmacists from using their professional judgment. In the wake of the Supreme Court *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, over half of US states have severely restricted or are expected to soon restrict access to abortion services, including medications that induce abortions. In many states, these laws prohibit prescribing and dispensing an "abortion-inducing drug" or contain other comparable terms. This language is vague, and it is unclear whether it prohibits certain medications only when prescribed to induce abortion or whether a medication is prohibited entirely if it has the potential to induce abortion regardless of the condition for which it was prescribed. Without access to medications proven to be safe and effective, patients' health is at risk. For pharmacists and physicians, patient well-being is paramount and they are deeply troubled that continuity of care is being disrupted. The associations are calling on state policymakers to ensure through guidance, law or regulation that patient care is not disrupted and that pharmacists and physicians shall be free to continue to practice medicine and pharmacy without fear of professional sanction or liability.

US: FDA schedules meeting on OTC birth control pill application

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) scheduled a joint advisory committee meeting to discuss an application filed by Perrigo for what could be the first over-the-counter (OTC) daily birth control pill available in the US, [the Hill reports](#). Perrigo filed its application to move its birth control pill from prescription to OTC in July—just weeks after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, leading to several states in the US enacting total or near-total abortion bans. The meeting will be held in mid-November.

UK: RPS statement on the death of Queen Elizabeth II

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) released a [statement](#) mourning the monarch on behalf of the pharmacy community. "It is with great regret that we learnt of the death of our Patron, Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty gave 70 years of public service to this country. She was the much-valued Patron of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and her death will be deeply felt by pharmacists and the whole pharmacy family," RPS

wrote. “The Queen became Patron of RPS after the death of her father, King George VI, in 1952. In 1988, The Queen agreed that the title ‘Royal’ should be granted to the then ‘Pharmaceutical Society.’ RPS was originally granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation by Queen Victoria. The Queen’s father, King George VI, also Patron of RPS from 1937 until his death in 1952.” RPS President Claire Anderson will write to the Royal Family to express sincere condolences from the RPS. RPS English Pharmacy Board Chair Thorrun Govind also paid tribute to the Queen on Twitter, [posting a picture](#) of her and former RPS Director for England, Ravi Sharma, meeting the monarch at a Buckingham Palace garden party in 2019. “I’m so glad we got to talk about pharmacy,” she added. “An amazing woman who really did understand pharmacy,” she [tweeted later](#).

Ireland: Free contraception available for women aged 17 to 25

Every woman in Ireland between the ages of 17 and 25 is eligible for free contraception beginning September 14, [RTÉ reports](#). The program is designed to remove the financial burden around contraception from younger people. Currently, the cost of these prescriptions are mostly covered for medical card holders, but those without a card can pay hundreds in fees and prescription costs. The deal covers the pill and long-lasting contraception, including intrauterine devices (IUDs). General practitioners, pharmacies, primary care centres, family planning centres and student health clinics will be signing contracts with the Health Service Executive to provide services under the program. The Irish Pharmacy Union said they would like to see women have the option to get oral contraception (the pill) directly from pharmacies without the need for a prescription. However, that has not been included in the deal—so far at least.

FIP: Flu, COVID-19 shot co-administration safe

Administering vaccines against COVID-19 and flu at the same time increases uptake of each vaccine and increases protection against both diseases, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) says. The [new guidance for pharmacists](#), published by FIP, contains chapters looking separately at the impact of COVID-19 and flu, and a further chapter comparing the characteristics of the 2 diseases. A final chapter focuses on opportunities for co-administration of the 2 vaccines and how pharmacists can contribute to

global health by supporting this. The guidance also summarizes outcomes from 3 clinical trials that support the safety of co-administering these vaccines.

“Pharmacy united in action for a healthier world”: World Pharmacists Day 2022

This year’s theme of World Pharmacists Day on September 25 aims to showcase pharmacy’s positive impact on health around the world and further strengthen solidarity among the profession. The International Pharmaceutical Federation invites colleagues from all sectors of the pharmacy profession to take part in the campaign and show the world how pharmacists are united for health, regardless of and overcoming conflict, different politics and cultures, and economic disparity. “The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 3 sets out a number of health targets including for non-communicable diseases (such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and mental health) and communicable diseases (for example, HIV, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases). We have seen improvements in many of these areas and our profession should be proud of and make known its contributions. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has hindered progress and it is imperative that we rally to build back better,” said Dominique Jordan, president of FIP. [Check out](#) the campaign resources to help you celebrate.

This weekly update is compiled by the Canadian Pharmacists Association. 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.

Canadian Pharmacists Association
851 Industrial Avenue, Mailbox M035
Ottawa, ON K1G 4L3
[Contact Us](#)