



# The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

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## Registered Nurses (Extended Practice)

Schedule B to the Extended Practice Regulations to The Registered Nurses Act permits and lists the following medications that can be ordered by a registered nurse extended practice [RN(EP)] independently of another prescriber but in collaboration with a pharmacist (**see General information for pharmacists on Page 2**):

### Drugs

1. **Any drug or device listed in Part 1 or 2 of the Specified Drugs Regulation under The Prescription Drugs Cost Assistance Act\*. That is; Pharmacare Benefit medications as described in Part 1 and Part 2 with the EXCEPTION of narcotics, controlled drugs or benzodiazepines and other targeted substances.** The right to prescribe these products is governed by the federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and is presently limited to medical practitioners, dentists and veterinary practitioners.

Should an RN(EP) be employed by a RHA or health care facility they may prescribe other drugs (except narcotics, controlled drugs or benzodiazepines and other targeted substances) if permitted by a written policy of the RHA or the facility.

2. **The following drugs:**
  - Apo-Naproxen EC
  - Celebrex
  - Mobicox
  - pms-Meloxicam
  - ratio-Meloxicam
3. **Any non-prescription drug in order to permit the patient to access a drug plan that covers non-prescription drugs.**

### Vaccines:

- a vaccine listed in the Specified Drug Regulations. (*Pharmacare part 1 & 2*)
- a vaccine not listed in the Specified Drug Regulations that may be dispensed through a retail pharmacy;
- a vaccine or biologic used in the provincial immunization program when required to be prescribed for persons who do not meet the provincial criteria or free vaccine.
- BCG and Rabies vaccines

### Renewing Prescriptions:

**An RN(EP) can renew prescriptions for other drugs not mentioned above under the authority and with the collaboration of a prescriber permitted to prescribe that drug.** (The prescription would be filled under the name of the prescriber with whom the RN(EP) was collaborating.)

## The excerpt from the *Extended Practice Regulations to The Registered Nurses Act*

### **Prescribing drugs**

**6(1)** For the purpose of clause 2(2)(b) of the Act, a registered nurse (extended practice) may

(a) prescribe any drug or device referred to in Schedule B, and distribute samples of them;

(b) prescribe drugs or devices other than those referred to in Schedule B, if the nurse is an employee of a regional health authority or health care facility who is permitted to do so by a written policy of the authority or facility; and

(c) prescribe any non-prescription drug in order to permit the patient to access a drug plan that covers non-prescription drugs.

**6(2)** A registered nurse (extended practice) may renew prescriptions for drugs in addition to those referred to in clause(1)(a), but only for patients who are being managed collaboratively with another health care provider with authority to prescribe the drug.

**6(3)** This section is subject to the restrictions set out in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) and the regulations under that Act.

### **Prescribing vaccines**

**7** For the purpose of clause 2(2)(b) of the Act, a registered nurse (extended practice) may prescribe the following vaccines:

(a) a vaccine listed in the *Specified Drugs Regulation*;

(b) a vaccine not listed in the *Specified Drugs Regulation* that may be dispensed through a retail pharmacy;

(c) a vaccine or biologic used in a provincial immunization program when required to be prescribed for persons who do not meet the provincial criteria for free vaccine;

(d) BCG vaccine and rabies vaccine.

Detailed information on RN(EP)'s including:

- RN(EP) Extended Practice Register Listing of RN(EP)s.
- RN(EP) Regulations
- RN(EP) Standards of Practice
- RN(EP) Competencies

is available for review by looking on the following website address belonging to The College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba:

<http://www.crnmb.ca/extendinfo.php>

## **General RN(EP) information for pharmacists:**

Extended practice registered nurses are RNs who have demonstrated they possess advanced competencies and have passed an examination in advanced practice nursing approved by the College's Board of Directors. The College of Registered Nurses expects that 25 or more may be registered before the end of 2006.

Only those nurses meeting the qualifications and registered through the College will be able to call themselves extended practice registered nurses and use the initials RN(EP). These are the only registered nurses authorized to independently provide the additional services. The registration of an RN(EP) can be confirmed if necessary at the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba by telephone at 204-774-3477 or by facsimile at 204-775-6052.

### **Scope**

Once on the register, extended practice registered nurses [RN(EP)] are able to:

- independently prescribe drugs and vaccines;
- order diagnostic and other screening tests; and
- perform minor invasive and surgical procedures,

as outlined in the Extended Practice Regulation of the Registered Nurses Act. The prescribing authority and other activities are ONLY available to registered nurses listed on the Extended Practice Register of the College of Registered Nurses and NOT to all registered nurses.

### **Collaborative Practice**

The prescribing authority of a RN(EP) requires the prescription to include **“the treatment goal and/or diagnosis and/or clinical indication”** and must be **“based on assessment obtained through direct client contact”**. There have been reported incidents where the RN(EP) is using the term “symptom control” as the treatment/diagnosis. **This is not acceptable** and the pharmacist must contact the RN(EP) for further information.

**The role and importance of the pharmacist in knowing the treatment goal is critical in support of patient safety and patient care.** Although the competency for RN(EP) requires the application of knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, pharmacotherapeutics and pharmacodynamics when selecting and prescribing drugs, their knowledge cannot be equated to that of a licensed pharmacist. As a result, the collaborative practice between the RN(EP) and the pharmacist to confirm the right medication and dosage is critical.

### **Next Steps**

The MPhA has been meeting with the CRNM to amend the joint agreements Facsimile Prescriptions and Continued Care Prescriptions to include RN(EP). In addition, the Standards of Practice for RN(EP) identify the need to establish a “working relationship with pharmacist(s) for purposes of consultation and education of clients”. Further clarification and directives will be developed describing pharmacists’ collaborative role with RN(EP)s. In anticipation of these discussions formalizing the collaborative role, pharmacists are permitted to accept **Facsimile Prescriptions and provide Continued Care Prescriptions for patients receiving care from a RN(EP)**.

Extended practice registered nurses will help address gaps in the health system, add to current services, increase public access to health care and enhance registered nursing expertise. They are expected to practice in a variety of community, acute-care and long-term care settings where clients obtain access to health services.

The draft *Pharmaceutical Act* now being reviewed by government’s legislative counsel includes provisions for enhancing the role of the pharmacists in providing direct patient care and through collaborative practice agreements and settings.

### **Further information**

The College of Registered Nurses provides additional information on their website, including an updated list of RNs on the Extended Practice Register. The College’s Registration Service Consultant, Joanne Winsor RN would be pleased to answer any questions you have or provide more information about any aspect of the new extended practice registered nurses. Call her at the College: (204) 774-3477 ext. 226, or toll free in Manitoba (800) 665-2027 ext. 226, you can email her at: [jwinsor@crnm.mb.ca](mailto:jwinsor@crnm.mb.ca) For information about the extended practice registered nurse or RN(EP) on the web visit: [www.crnmb.ca/extendinfo.php](http://www.crnmb.ca/extendinfo.php)

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