

Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board Standards of Practice



**Standards for the Safe and Effective Administration of
Drug Therapy by Inhalation or Injection**

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1) Introduction

Standards of Practice are minimum standards that all registrants are expected to meet. Regardless of position or practice environment, when a registrant performs a specific role, they must perform it to the level specified in the Standards of Practice and meet all of the standards associated with that role. These Standards describe the minimum expectations for pharmacists involved in administering inhalations or injections to patients and are intended to promote consistency in the provision of this service to the people of this province.

2) Requirements

In order to receive authorization from the Board to administer inhalations or injections, pharmacists must first:

- a) apply to the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board for authorization;
- b) demonstrate completion of the required education by either:
 - i) providing proof of successful completion of an education and training program on the administration of injections that has received Competency-Based (Stage-2) Accreditation by the Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP); or
 - ii) providing proof of graduation from a pharmacy program accredited by the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) where education and training on the administration of injections is a component of the core curriculum; and

<p>NOTE: Application for authorization to administer injections must be made within one year of successful completion of the required education program.</p>

- c) provide proof of current certification in CPR Level C or HCP and Emergency or Standard First Aid from a recognized provider (e.g. St. John Ambulance, the Canadian Red Cross).

<p>NOTE: Current certification must be maintained at all times while the pharmacist is administering inhalations or injections.</p>
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Applications will be reviewed and, if approved, authorization will be issued to the pharmacist. Once authorized, the pharmacist must:

- a) maintain competence and skill level in administering inhalations or injections.
 - With regard to inhalations - Pharmacists should familiarize themselves with the proper administration technique for the given inhalation product prior to administration.
 - With regard to injections - Remedial training should be completed, as necessary, to bring knowledge and skills up to standard. At a minimum, re-training should be completed if an injection has not been administered for a three year period.
- b) complete a professional declaration annually at renewal, indicating that he or she has taken action to maintain both clinical and technical competencies in administration of inhalations and injections and has and will maintain current CPR and First Aid certification.
- c) agree to only administer inhalations and injections in accordance with provincial guidelines, standards established by the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board, and within the limits of the pharmacists' own competence.

3) Limitations

- a) A pharmacist may not administer an inhalation to a child younger than two (2) years of age and an injection to a child less than five (5) years of age.
- b) A pharmacist should not administer an inhalation or injection to a family member or someone of a “close personal or emotional relationship” unless there is no alternative.
- c) A pharmacist should not administer an inhalation or injection to any patient with a reported history of adverse reaction to related inhalations or injections.
- d) A pharmacist may only administer a Schedule I inhalation or injection where it has been prescribed by an authorized prescriber.
- e) Pharmacists must limit their administration of injections to those products that can be administered intramuscularly or subcutaneously.

NOTE: Pharmacists are reminded that vaccines must always be administered in accordance with the current Canadian Immunization Guide and the Newfoundland and Labrador Immunization Manual.

4) Operational Standards

Before administering inhalations or injections to patients, the pharmacist must ensure that certain minimum operational standards are met:

- a) *Layout and Design.* The location must be designed and laid out to allow for all inhalations and injections to be provided in a patient care environment that ensures visual and acoustical privacy and confidentiality and that is clean, safe, and comfortably furnished for the patient. This area must also allow for suitable post-therapy observation and be equipped with all necessary emergency support equipment and supplies that may be required including:
 - i) Appropriate drugs including adrenaline/epinephrine and diphenhydramine
 - ii) Resuscitator bag / equipment to maintain airways
 - iii) Ice or cold compresses
- b) *Electronic Health Record.* In order to allow for administration of inhalations and injections to be documented in the patient’s provincial health record, it is strongly recommended that pharmacies where inhalations and injections are administered are connected to the provincial electronic health record¹.
- c) *Policy and Procedure Manual.* A policy and procedure manual that includes at a minimum, drug storage and handling procedures, documentation procedures, post-inhalation or -injection monitoring options, emergency protocols, and universal precautions is developed, maintained and regularly reviewed.
- d) *Required References.* In addition to this document, the following must be available in the pharmacy in either print or electronic format for staff reference:
 - i) Canadian Immunization Guide (www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/professionals-professionnels-eng.php)
 - ii) Newfoundland and Labrador Immunization Manual (www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/health_pro_info.html#immunization)

¹ This recommendation is in place until such time as all pharmacies are connected to the provincial electronic health record.

5) Practice Standards

5.1 Prior to administering the inhalation or injection, the pharmacist must:

- a) **Obtain informed consent** from the patient or patient's agent with regards to:
 - i) Name of the drug therapy to be administered
 - ii) Disease or condition being treated or prevented
 - iii) Expected benefits and risks of the drug therapy
 - iv) Expected reaction
 - v) Common and rare side effects
 - vi) Rationale for the required observation period following the inhalation or injection, if applicable
 - vii) Follow-up or emergency contact information for the pharmacy/pharmacist and local emergency treatment centre(s)

- b) **Perform and document the results of a basic assessment** of the patient:
 - i) Age
 - ii) Weight
 - iii) Relevant allergies, medical conditions and medications
 - iv) Patient condition and status (e.g. fever/signs of infection, blood pressure, heart rate, pregnancy)
 - v) Patient immunocompetence (NOTE: live vaccines should not be administered to immunocompromised patients)
 - vi) Patient history with inhalations or injections (immunization records, evidence of previous adverse reaction)
 - vii) Special considerations related to renal or hepatic dysfunction, pregnancy, etc.
 - viii) Evaluation of site of administration

- c) **Assess the appropriateness of the drug or substance** for the patient, including but not limited to:
 - i) Indication
 - ii) Dose
 - iii) Allergy status
 - iv) Risk factors and contraindications
 - v) Route of administration including:
 - Appropriateness for the patient
 - Appropriateness for the drug / solution

- d) **Prepare the inhalation or injection for administration** including, as necessary:
 - i) Ensure the product is stable, has been properly stored and is clearly labeled
 - ii) Assemble appropriate equipment and supplies (e.g. syringes, needles, administration sets and emergency supplies)
 - iii) Use aseptic technique in preparation of any injection
 - iv) Apply universal precautions for infection control
 - v) Properly store prepared products

5.2 While administering the inhalation or injection, the pharmacist must:

- a) **Perform and provide care of the site** of administration, as necessary, including:
 - i) Select and landmark the site

- ii) Assess and prepare the site
- iii) Use appropriate dressings
- b) **Ensure aseptic technique is maintained** for any injection
- c) **Ensure universal precautions are maintained** throughout the administration
- d) If necessary, **perform precautions required for patients with latex allergies**

5.3 After administering the inhalation or injection, the pharmacist must:

- a) **Ensure the patient is appropriately monitored and evaluated**
- b) **Appropriately respond to emergencies or adverse reactions**, if they arise
- c) **Safely dispose of sharps, drug containers and wastage**
- d) **Document** the details of the inhalation or injection administration including but not limited to:
 - i) Patient consent
 - ii) Substance and dose given
 - iii) Manufacturer and lot number
 - iv) Site and route of administration
 - v) Date and time of administration
 - vi) Patient response
 - vii) Patient education
 - Adverse reactions and management
 - Plans for follow-up
 - viii) Name and registration number of pharmacist administering the inhalation or injection

<p>NOTE: A template Documentation and Notification Form has been provided in Appendix I.</p>

- e) **Notify and provide relevant information to other regulated health professionals and provincial health agencies, as appropriate.**
- f) **Provide a copy** of the Documentation and Notification Form to the patient for their records
- g) **Record the inhalation or injection administration in the provincial electronic health record, where available.**

APPENDIX I

Inhalation or Injection Administration Documentation and Notification Form

Patient**Information:**

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

MCP # _____

Injection**Details:**

Drug Name and Dosage _____

Route and Site of Administration _____

Indication _____

Manufacturer and Lot Number _____

Date and Time of Administration _____

Patient Assessment and Response (include other notes, as necessary):

Patient Education & Follow-up Plan: _____

**Documentation
of Informed
Consent:**

The patient and/or their agent was provided with sufficient information specific to the circumstances to allow him/her to make an informed decision regarding the inhalation or injection and voluntarily provided their consent.

Consent provided by: Patient Patient's Agent: _____**Pharmacist
Information:**

Name _____

Registration # _____

Pharmacy Name (if applicable) _____

Phone # _____

Fax # _____

Pharmacist Signature _____

**Notification
Information:**Health Care Provider Notified? Yes No

Name of Health Care Provider Notified _____

Phone # _____

Fax # _____

Method of Notification: Fax Other: _____

Date Sent: _____

If Health Care Provider was not notified, please document rationale: _____
