



Health, Seniors and Active Living
Deputy Minister
Room 310 Legislative Building, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3C 0V8

March 19, 2020

Dear Manitoba Pharmacist:

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic closely and provide up-to-date information and response.

To ensure the continued supply, and to prevent the stockpiling of prescription medication, MHSAL will require that, effective immediately, Manitoba pharmacists limit the number and quantity of prescription drug dispenses as follows:

- Manitoba pharmacists may only provide a **ONE MONTH** supply (to a maximum of a 35 day supply) in a 28 day period for **ALL DRUGS**.
- This restriction applies to all prescriptions regardless of whether the patient pays or has a private or public Drug Plan that pays for the prescription.

The Drug Program Information Network (DPIN) claims system is being updated to reflect the above requirements. Claims might be rejected if they exceed the above quantities.

MHSAL has consulted with the Manitoba College of Pharmacists and Pharmacists Manitoba on these restrictions, and has the support of both organizations in this matter.

MHSAL will be contacting the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc. to advise private payers of this requirement. We will be asking all private sector health insurers to collaborate with community pharmacies to ensure that adjudication processes and practices support community pharmacies in Manitoba to meet this directive.

MHSAL will send a pharmacy bulletin with additional information.

MHSAL will continue to monitor the situation to ensure maintenance of access to prescription medications, and will determine if further changes may be needed in the future.

Pharmacists, as important members of the healthcare team in Manitoba, play a key role in insuring the continued availability of prescription medication in the province.

Please continue to refer to [Manitoba.ca/COVID19](https://manitoba.ca/COVID19) at <https://manitoba.ca/COVID19/> for the most up-to-date information from the province and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Sincerely,

Karen Herd, CA