



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

MAY 08 2020

Dear Manitoba Pharmacist:

First and foremost, I want to thank you for your significant efforts and contributions towards the health and safety of Manitobans and recognize that Pharmacists are a valued part of the front-line defense against COVID-19, balancing continuity of care for patients with responsible dispensing that ensures continued availability of medication for all Canadians.

Governments, pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy wholesalers and other stakeholders are collaborating to monitor and ensure the long-term sustainability of the drug supply in Canada and inform timely responses as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. As a result of the one-month supply restrictions put in place across the country, manufacturers and distributors indicate that supply warehouses have replenished much of their inventory to pre-pandemic levels and can begin lifting their filters and/or allocation restrictions.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) is therefore removing the requirement for pharmacists to limit the number and quantity of prescription drugs dispensed to only one month's supply, however acknowledge that some limits must remain in place until greater stability is established. In consultation with the Manitoba College of Pharmacists and Pharmacists Manitoba, MHSAL has established a committee of experts to review COVID19-related drug shortages and to advise government on which drugs should be restricted in quantity at the patient level until inventory is adequately replenished or supply uncertainty is resolved. MHSAL will communicate which drugs are subject to dispensing quantity limits through its website in a timely manner and will lift those restrictions upon approval from the Committee during the COVID19 pandemic. **The list of drugs that remain on one-month supply limits can be found at:**

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/profdocs/dsurl.pdf>.

Please note however that these replenished inventories remain sensitive to demand surges. Inventories rapidly diminish if there are spikes in our COVID19 infection rates, if patients and/or pharmacies practice stockpiling, or if international pandemic rates affect manufacturing and shipping. Pharmacists should continue to follow appropriate practice directions, as set out by the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba, regarding the quantity of drug dispensed per patient, and in accordance with their prescription and/or their insurance coverage.

We realize that drug shortages occurred prior to COVID19 and this committee will not be managing general shortages or supply issues. Rather, the scope of this committee extends only to those drugs that are or become short specifically because of COVID19.

Please continue to refer to 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Herd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and the last name "Herd" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Herd, CA