

POLICY CATEGORY: Governing the Membership - Pharmacy Practice
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New Brunswick College of Pharmacists
Ordre des pharmaciens du Nouveau-Brunswick

POLICY: ADMINISTRATION OF INJECTIONS

*See also companion document: Policy GM-PP-I-04
Supplemental Standards of Practice: Administration of Injections*

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TERMINOLOGY

Pharmacy professional: A pharmacist, pharmacy technician, student or conditional registrant who is registered with the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists (the College).

PURPOSE

The document seeks to balance benefit versus risks of expanded patient access to receiving injected medications from pharmacy professionals by describing the:

- scope of practice for pharmacists and pharmacist students when administering injections to patients
- scope of practice for pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician students when administering injections to patients
- required and recommended training in the administration of injections
- process for receiving Authorization or a Technical Permit from the College to administer injections
- proof of a registrant's Authorization or a Technical Permit to administer injections

INTRODUCTION

Administration of drugs via injection was a new component of pharmacy practice in 2011 when original guidance¹ was developed. The knowledge and skills had yet to be incorporated within pharmacist curricula and so, continuing educational opportunities for existing practitioners were developed and regulatory policy was enacted. Administration of injections was included in only the scope of practice for pharmacists and was limited to patients five years of age and older. While the regulations did not limit administration to only intramuscular (IM) and subcutaneous (SC) routes of administration at the upper arm site, approved training was limited to these routes and site.²

This policy and the *Supplemental Standards of Practice: Administration of Injections* expands public access to injection services by pharmacy professionals beyond what was authorized in 2011 through:

1. The pharmacy technician scope of practice encompassing administration of injections to patients
2. Lower patient age limitations
3. Additional information on injecting in anatomical sites other than the upper arm

This policy and the *Supplemental Standards of Practice: Administration of Injections* have been drafted to address the risks associated with administering injections by pharmacy professionals. Risks may include:

- Gaps in professional knowledge and/or skill relating to new and unfamiliar anatomical sites of administration and administration to younger pediatric patients.

¹ This document replaces the original guidance: Policies GM-PP-I-02 and 03.

² The regulations also allow pharmacy professionals to administer injections via intradermal and intravenous routes however, the College has not yet established the training requirements for these two routes of administration.

- Increased volume of administrations and diversity of drugs injected could result in a greater number of patients experiencing adverse events and emergencies while in a pharmacy professional's care.
- Professional's use of documentation systems failing to communicate prescribing, dispensing and administration information to the interprofessional patient care team.
- Unclear boundaries of pharmacist and pharmacy technician roles in the administration of injections.
- Providing injections for cosmetic³ rather than health benefits.

This policy should be considered in conjunction with the *Supplemental Standards of Practice: Administration of Injections* which details the **minimum** expectations of pharmacy professionals in their provision of patient care involving injected medications. The *Supplemental Standards of Practice: Administration of Injections* supplement the *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists* and the *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians*.

1.0 SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- 1.1 Pharmacists⁴ may administer injections via IM or SC routes in accordance with the Regulations (22.3-22.5), the *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists* and the *Supplemental Standards of Practice for Administration of Injections*.
- 1.2 Pharmacy technicians⁵ may administer injections under the routine supervision⁶ of a pharmacist on the Direct Client Care register (with authorization to administer injections) via IM or SC routes in accordance with Regulations (22.3-22.5), the *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacy Technicians* and the *Supplemental Standards of Practice for Administration of Injections*.
- 1.3 As with any medication, according to the *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists* the pharmacist must assess the patient in the context of the drug therapy, plan the care (including timing of the administration), follow-up regarding safety and efficacy and educate the patient regarding effectiveness, safety and adherence.
- 1.4 A pharmacy technician may only administer an injection **after** a pharmacist has completed the patient assessment to determine the appropriateness of the therapy to be injected.
- 1.5 A pharmacy technician may only complete the technical component of administering an injection and any care subsequent to an adverse reaction. The technical component includes preparing the medication to be injected and administering the injection to the patient.

³ Cosmetic denotes the use of any substance or mixture of substances, manufactured, sold or represented for use in cleansing, improving or altering the complexion, skin, hair or teeth (Health Canada).

⁴ The term 'pharmacist' means pharmacist who is authorized to administer medication by injection by the College throughout this document unless otherwise noted.

⁵ The term 'pharmacy technician' means pharmacy technician who is permitted to administer medication by injection by the College throughout this document unless otherwise noted.

⁶ Pharmacy technicians, according to [Regulation 20.6](#), practice under routine supervision of a pharmacist. The same level of supervision is required for administering injections. Please see the definition of '[routine supervision](#)' in the Regulations.

- 1.6 A pharmacist may delegate the administration of an injection to a pharmacist student or delegate the technical component of the injection to a pharmacy technician student if the student has successfully completed an approved administration of injections training.⁷
- 1.7 A pharmacy technician may delegate the technical component of an injection to a pharmacist student, or a pharmacy technician student if the student has successfully completed an approved administration of injections training⁹.
- 1.8 If administration is delegated to a student, the pharmacist or pharmacy technician must:
 - 1.8.1 Be present in the location where the administration is occurring; and
 - 1.8.2 Consider competency⁸ of the delegate as adequate; and
 - 1.8.3 Provide close supervision⁹.
- 1.9 Pharmacy managers of pharmacies that offer injection services must meet the *Supplemental Standards of Practice for Administration of Injections* where sections pertain to managers. These standards build on those set out for managers within the *Model Standards of Practice for Canadian Pharmacists* as well as Regulations [14.2 \(Quality Management\)](#) and [20.2 \(Manager Responsibilities\)](#).

2.0 LIMITATIONS

Pharmacy professionals may **not** administer injections:

- To patients who are younger than two years of age
- For cosmetic³ purposes

3.0 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Pharmacy professionals must meet and demonstrate competencies necessary for administering injections.

- 3.1 For IM and SC administration via upper arm:
Pharmacy professionals must successfully complete an accredited education program recognized by the College¹⁰ on administration of injections via IM and SC routes.

⁷ As per Regulation [22.3\(2\)](#).

⁸ Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must consider whether the person receiving delegation has competency in administering injections prior to delegation. Competency is gained through formal education and practice experience.

⁹ Specified in Regulation [22.3\(2\)](#). Please see the definition of '[close supervision](#)' in the Regulations.

¹⁰ The College only recognizes injection training programs:

- With Stage II Canadian Council for Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP) accreditation ([link](#)) or,
- Beginning for pharmacist graduates in the year 2021: Completed as a component of Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP)-accredited entry-to-practice programs. Exception: The University of Saskatchewan does not have integrated training as of 2021.

As of 2021, CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician programs do not consistently include injection training in established curriculum. In time, as this content is consistent in all Canadian programs, the College may re-evaluate the training requirement for pharmacy technician graduates.

- 3.2 For IM and SC administration via anatomical sites other than the upper arm:
Pharmacy professionals must successfully complete an accredited education program recognized by the College⁹ on administration of injections by IM and SC routes (as per 3.1 above)
AND
Complete educational programming that provides the professional with competencies necessary for injecting at other anatomical sites¹¹. The College does not mandate specific education and training but strongly encourages professionals to engage in CCCEP-accredited educational programs.
- 3.3 Pediatric administration of injections:
Pharmacy professionals must successfully complete an accredited education program recognized by the College¹⁰ on administration of injections by IM and SC routes (as per 3.1 above)
AND
Complete educational programming that provides the professional with competencies necessary for injecting pediatric patients. Children may benefit from receiving injections from professionals that have additional training in caring for pediatric patients receiving injected medications. The College does not mandate specific education and training but strongly encourages professionals to engage in CCCEP-accredited educational programs.
- 3.4 For intradermal (ID) or intravenous (IV) administration:
Training requirements are yet to be determined therefore, ID and IV administration by pharmacy professionals is not permitted.
- 3.5 Continuing Professional Development:
It is expected that all pharmacy professionals engaged in this practice participate in continuing education on administering injections and maintain best practices in this aspect of patient care.
- 3.6 Lapsed Competency in Administering Injections:
- 3.6.1 Pharmacy professionals are responsible for periodically assessing their ability to perform competently when engaging in any aspect of the practice of pharmacy.¹²
 - 3.6.2 Pharmacy professionals who have not administered injections for a period of **three years** must notify the College to have their Authorization or Technical Permit to administer injections revoked.
 - 3.6.3 Pharmacy professionals can regain their Authorization or Technical Permit to administer injections by successfully completing an accredited training program recognized by the College⁹ on administration of injections by IM and SC routes.

¹¹ Sites may include but not limited to abdominal, gluteal or vastus lateralis.

¹² Regulation 12.30

4.0 RECEIVING AUTHORIZATION OR A TECHNICAL PERMIT TO ADMINISTER INJECTIONS

Prior to administering injections, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must receive the following from the College:

Pharmacists:	Authorization to Administer Drugs by Injection
Pharmacy Technicians:	Technical Permit to Administer Drugs by Injection

- 4.1 A pharmacist may not apply for a Technical Permit to Administer Drugs by Injection and a pharmacy technician may not apply for an Authorization to Administer Drugs by Injection.
- 4.2 Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must maintain their online profile with the College relating to Authorization to Administer Drugs by Injection or a Technical Permit to Administer Drugs by Injection.
- 4.3 Application for Authorization or a Technical Permit must be made to the College within **one year** of successful completion of the recognized training program. If not authorized within one year, another training program recognized by the College must be completed.
- 4.4 Recent graduates who are only registered and licensed on the Active: Direct Client Care register more than one-year following completion of a recognized training program¹² may receive Authorization or a Technical Permit from the College if their competency has been maintained through regular and ongoing use of the knowledge and skills needed to administer of injections (under supervision).
- 4.5 Registrants on the Active: Direct Client Care register and are or were authorized/permitted to administer injections by another pharmacy regulatory authority in another Canadian jurisdiction may apply to transfer their status to New Brunswick if the applicant has maintained competency through regular and ongoing use of the knowledge and skills needed to administer injections and all other requirements for an application have been met. If a pharmacy professional is authorized to inject in another Canadian jurisdiction, this authorization can be transferred to New Brunswick even if the injection training was not CCCEP-accredited.
- 4.6 At annual registration and licensure renewal, an Authorization or a Technical Permit is only retained if the professional has maintained (through regular and ongoing use of the knowledge and skills needed to administer injections) competency and declared competency. Section 3.6 above provides information on re-establishment of Authorization or a Technical Permit.

5.0 PROOF OF AUTHORIZATION OR A TECHNICAL PERMIT TO ADMINISTER INJECTIONS

Proof of Authorization or a Technical Permit to administer injections is publicly available by searching the online register on the College website.

APPENDIX A - RESOURCES

Educational Programs

The College provides these links as learning opportunities rather than mandated educational products. Pharmacy professionals should identify their own individual educational needs to ensure competency in providing injections in pediatric patients and undertake didactic and/or experiential learning in order to establish competency.

1. Dalhousie Pharmacy CPD : <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/cpe/programs/online-programs-andwebinars/PediatricInjectionTechniques.html>
2. PEAR Healthcare : <https://www.healthlearning.ca/#/online-courses/9eb3d63a-2615-433f-9c61-c49859c127fc>
3. Pharmachieve : <https://www.pharmachieve.com/component/dtregister/?controller=event&eventId=878&Itemid=&task=individualRegister&>

Reporting of Adverse Events Following Immunization

Should a client experience an adverse event following an immunization injection, you must complete and forward a report to the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The reporting form is available at the following link:

English <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/pdf/raefi-dmcisi-eng.pdf>

En français <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/pdf/raefi-dmcisi-fra.pdf>

Post-Exposure Management of Occupational Exposure to Blood/Body Fluids

The following link presents an overview of treatment for accidental exposure to blood or body fluids e.g. needlestick injury.

<http://www.nurses.ab.ca/Carna/index.aspx?WebStructureID=3734>

Canadian Immunization Guide

This document covers basic principles and recommended immunization schedules

English <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/index-eng.php>

French <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/index-fra.php>

Immunization Competencies for Health Professionals

This document outlines the competencies a health professional should have if involved in immunization clients.

English <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/ic-ci-eng.php>

French <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/im/ic-ci-fra.php>

Required Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technician Competencies for Immunization and Injections
https://www.ccep.ca/pages/immunization_and_injections.html

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/naci-ccni/#rec>