

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 or conditional registrant, registered with the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists (the College). In the context of this policy, one who was granted authorization or a permit to administer injections by the College.
- Student: Pharmacist students and pharmacy technician students registered with the College may administer injections in accordance with section one of this policy, *Scope of Practice*.

PURPOSE

The document seeks to provide additional information on 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; and
- proof of a pharmacy professional's authorization or permit to administer injections.

INTRODUCTION

The administration of injections by health professionals allows patients to receive medications such as vaccines against preventable diseases or treatment for chronic conditions by injection of a needle into a particular anatomical site. As with other types of treatment, a pharmacist will conduct a patient assessment to determine the appropriateness of the treatment before an injection is administered. An injection may then be administered by a pharmacist, pharmacy technician or student.

The following policy sets out expectations for implementing administration of injections in pharmacy practice.

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* supplements the *Model Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Canada*.

1. SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- 1.1 Pharmacists¹ may administer injections via **IM, ID or SC** routes in accordance with the [Regulations](#) (22.3-22.5), the [Model Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Canada](#) and the [Supplemental Standards of Practice for Administration of Injections](#).
- 1.2 Pharmacy technicians² may administer injections under the routine supervision³ 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 Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Canada* and the *Supplemental Standards of Practice for Administration of Injections*.
- 1.3 As with any medication, according to the *Model Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Canada*, 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 when authorized by a pharmacist **after** the pharmacist has completed the patient assessment and determined 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.
- 1.6 A pharmacist or pharmacy technician may delegate and/or authorize administration in accordance with Regulation 22.3(2) where the pharmacist or pharmacy technician:
 - 1.6.1 Is present in the location where the administration is occurring; and
 - 1.6.2 Considers competency⁴ of the delegate as adequate; and
 - 1.6.3 Provides close supervision⁵.
- 1.7 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 student⁶.
- 1.8 A pharmacy technician may delegate the technical component of an injection to a pharmacist student, or a pharmacy technician student⁶.
- 1.9 A pharmacist may only delegate an ID injection to a pharmacist student. A pharmacist may only delegate an ID injection if they have successfully completed a CCCEP-accredited education program approved by the College on administration of injections via the ID route.
- 1.10 Pharmacy managers of pharmacies that offer injection services must meet the Supplemental Standards of Practice for Administration of Injections where sections pertain to managers.

¹ The term 'pharmacist' means pharmacist who is authorized to administer medication by injection by the College throughout this document unless otherwise noted.

² The term 'pharmacy technician' means pharmacy technician who is permitted to administer medication by injection by the College throughout this document unless otherwise noted.

³ 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.

⁴ Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must consider whether the person receiving delegation has competency in administering injections prior to authorizing the administration of injections. Competency is gained through formal education and practice experience.

⁵ Specified in Regulation 22.3(2). Please see the definition of 'close supervision' in the Regulations.

⁶ As per Regulation 22.3(2).

These standards build on those set out for managers within the *Model Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Canada*.

- 1.11 A pharmacist administering a tuberculosis test is required to report any positive test result to Public Health.

2. LIMITATIONS

Pharmacy professionals may **not** administer injections:

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

3. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Pharmacy professionals must meet and demonstrate the 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 College⁷ on administration of injections via IM and SC routes.

- 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 sites⁸. The College does not mandate specific education and training but strongly encourages professionals to engage in CCCEP-accredited educational programs.

- 3.3 Administration of injections to pediatric patients:
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

⁷ The College only recognizes training programs:

- With Stage II Canadian Council for Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP) accreditation ([link](#)) or,
- Beginning for graduates in the year 2021, training completed as a component of Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP)-accredited entry-to-practice programs for pharmacists for the purposes of administering injections. Saskatchewan does not have integrated content as of 2023.

As of 2021, CCAPP-accredited pharmacy technician programs do not consistently include this 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.

⁸ Sites may include but not limited to abdominal, gluteal or vastus lateralis.

⁹ As per Regulation 12.3.

Complete educational programming that provides the pharmacy professional with the 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 pharmacy professionals to engage in CCCEP-accredited educational programs.

3.4 For intradermal (ID) administration:

Pharmacists are eligible to administer via the ID route if they have already received authorization to administer Drugs by injection (IM/SC) from the College. Pharmacists must successfully complete a CCCEP-accredited education program approved by the College on administration of injections via the ID route. The only program currently approved is the Intradermal Injection Certificate through [PharmAchieve](#). Upon completion of this mandatory education, pharmacists must update their online profile with the College.

Pharmacy technicians are not permitted to administer injections via the ID route.

3.5 For intravenous (IV) administration:

Training requirements are yet to be determined for IV administration therefore, IV administration by pharmacy professionals is not permitted.

3.6 Continuing Professional Development:

It is expected that all pharmacy professionals engaged in administering injections participate in continuing education and maintain best practices in this aspect of patient care.

3.7 Lapsed Competency in Administering Injections:

3.7.1 Pharmacy professionals are responsible for periodically assessing their ability to perform competently when engaging in any aspect of the practice of pharmacy.¹⁰

3.7.2 Pharmacy professionals who have not administered injections for a period of **three years** must notify the College to have their authorization or permit to administer injections revoked.

3.7.3 Pharmacy professionals can regain their authorization or permit to administer injections by successfully completing an accredited training program recognized by the College on administration of injections by IM, ID and SC routes.

3.7.4 Pharmacists who have not administered an ID injection for a period of three years must notify the College to have their attestation removed from their online profile.

3.7.5 If a pharmacist's Authorization to Administer Drugs by Injection lapses, their ability to administer ID injections also lapses.

¹⁰ Regulation 12.30

4. 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

Prior to administering injections via ID route:

Pharmacists:

1. Obtain Authorization to Administer Drugs by Injection
2. Successfully complete a CCCEP-accredited education program approved by the College on administration of injections via the ID route (See item 3.4).
3. Complete an attestation in their online profile with the College.

Pharmacy Technicians: Pharmacy technicians are not permitted to administer injections via the ID route.

- 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 program 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 Pharmacy professionals 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 Canadian pharmacy professional is authorized to inject in another 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 3.7 above provides information on re-establishment of Authorization or a Technical Permit.

5. 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 [public register on the College website](#).

APPENDIX A - RESOURCES

Educational Program

<https://pharmachieve.com/register#ces>

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:

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

<https://extranet.ahsnet.ca/teams/policydocuments/1/clp-ahs-pol-occupational-exposure.pdf>

Canadian Immunization Guide

This document covers basic principles and recommended immunization schedules

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide.html>

Immunization Competencies for Health Professionals

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

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/immunization-competencies-health-professionals.html>

Required Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technician Competencies for Immunization and Injections

https://www.ccecp.ca/pages/immunization_and_injections.html

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)

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

Canadian Tuberculosis Standards

<https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022-05-17-ALERT-New-Canadian-Tuberculosis-Standards-8th-Edition.docx.pdf>

Public Health New Brunswick Notifiable Diseases and Events Notification Form

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/CDC/Epidemiology/NotifiableDiseaseReportableEventsFormRegion1.pdf>