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**New Brunswick College of Pharmacists**  
**Ordre des pharmaciens du Nouveau-Brunswick**

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# SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS OF PRACTICE: ADMINISTRATION OF INJECTIONS

*See also: GM-PP-I-02 Policy: Administration of Injections*

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The New Brunswick College of Pharmacists wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists in allowing the College to adapt their *Standards of Practice: Drug Administration* (2021).

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These Supplemental Standards of Practice: Administration of Injections are the **minimum** standards pertaining to administration of injections by pharmacy professionals. They supplement the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists' (The College's) adopted [Model Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Canada](#) and build upon Regulation 22.4 (information provided to the patient) and 22.5 (record of drug administration).

## **1. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES**

- 1.1 A pharmacy professional authorized to administer drugs by injection under [section 50\(b\)](#) of the Pharmacy Act must:
- Have access to policy and procedures for provision of injections.
  - Review these policies and procedures annually; and
  - Ensure that the environment in which the injection is to be administered is appropriate (i.e. clean, safe, furnished, private and comfortable for the client)
- 1.2 A pharmacy professional administering a drug by injection will do so only where:
- The pharmacist has a valid Authorization to Administer Drugs by Injection; or
  - The pharmacy technician has a valid Technical Permit to Administer Drugs by Injection; and
  - The patient is two years of age or older.
- 1.3 A pharmacy professional will not administer a drug or other substance used for cosmetic purposes.
- 1.4 A pharmacy technician with a valid Technical Permit may only administer a drug by injection provided they receive authorisation from a pharmacist that the patient's clinical assessment indicates the therapy is appropriate.
- 1.5 A pharmacy technician with a valid Technical Permit may only administer a drug by injection under the routine supervision of a pharmacist on the Direct Client Care register with authorization to administer injections.

## **2. KNOWLEDGE, SKILL, COMPETENCY AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS**

- 2.1 A pharmacy professional assumes responsibility for their decision to be involved in the administration of an injection and related subsequent actions that they take, including their decision not to administer an injection.
- 2.2 Prior to administering an injection to a patient, a pharmacy professional is satisfied that:
- They have the requisite competency to administer the drug effectively and safely given:
    - The presentation of the patient
    - Characteristics of the medication for injection
    - Environment in which the procedure will occur.

- A pharmacist has assessed the patient and determined the therapeutic appropriateness and timing of the administration; and
- Consideration has been given to:
  - The appropriate volume, site, route and method of administration (including landmarking and injection technique);
  - The appropriate length and gauge of the needle;
  - Any special precautions required for injection.
- They have the level of supervision and/or direction necessary considering their knowledge, skills and experience.

2.3 A pharmacy professional is prepared to treat emergencies or adverse events associated with the administration of the drug by injection, including at a minimum:

- Providing basic first aid
- Use of medications by injection to treat anaphylaxis.
- Performing CPR
- Managing vasovagal and anaphylactic reactions
- Addressing needlestick injuries

2.4 A pharmacy professional adheres to the pharmacy's established policies and procedures for provision of injections (See Standard 1.1 and 3.1)

### **3. POLICIES AND INJECTION PROCEDURES**

3.1 Pharmacy managers ensure that policies and procedures for activities associated with the administration of injections are established, implemented and enforced. These will be readily retrievable and will address, at a minimum, the following topics:

- Routine drug administration processes and procedures, including:
  - The process for ensuring that clinical assessment has been completed by a pharmacist prior to the injection being provided and
  - The process for signaling a pharmacy technician (with a technical permit) of the appropriateness of administering the injection.
- Post-administration observation in accordance with established standard of care
- Universal precautions and infection control, including hazardous waste management.
- Treatment of adverse events, emergencies and needle stick injuries
- Aseptic technique
- Stability and compatibility references
- Storage and labeling requirements post-reconstitution
- Contents and monitoring of anaphylaxis kits
- Precautions for patients with latex allergies
- Reporting of adverse reactions
- Management of the cold chain
- Documentation of drug administration and notification to other healthcare professionals

- 3.2 Pharmacy managers ensure that policies and procedures are reviewed and updated as necessary, minimally every three years or upon a change in regulation pertaining to injections or in the event of a medication incident.
- 3.3 A pharmacy professional who is administering an injection must take all necessary steps to ensure:
- there is ready access to drugs and health care products, aids and devices used to treat reactions to injectable drugs, and
  - their competence in administering the drugs, products, aids and devices used to treat reactions to injectable drugs.
  - the injectable drug product to be administered:
    - has been prepared for administration using aseptic technique,
    - is stable, and
    - has been stored and labelled appropriately following reconstitution or mixing.
  - routine precautions for infection control
  - documentation of drug administration

#### **4. PATIENT INVOLVEMENT**

Patients must provide informed consent<sup>1</sup> prior to receiving an injection. In addition to being presented with information about the benefits and risks to a treatment (as with any medication) patients receiving an injection must receive details as to what the injection involves (e.g. The insertion of a needle into a particular anatomical site and the process for post-administration monitoring).

#### **5. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

- 5.1 Pharmacy or non-pharmacy locations where administration of injections occur must:
- Be clean and permit aseptic technique and infection control procedures.
  - Provide adequate patient privacy for the injection.
  - Allow for the treatment of adverse reactions and emergencies.
  - Have receptacles for disposal of biohazardous material.
  - Include an examination table if injections provided require supine patient positioning.
- 5.2 Equipment must be installed to maintain the necessary cold chain
- 5.3 A pharmacy professional ensures the supplies necessary to administer medications and treat emergencies are readily available and include but are not limited to:
- Needles and syringes of varying sizes as necessary for the patient, site of injection and the characteristics of the drug

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the detailed description of consent provided within the College document: [Pharmacists' Expanded Scope: Minor Ailments](#).

- Personal protective equipment and other supplies as determined necessary to ensure proper infection control
- Sharps containers
- An anaphylaxis kit
- A first aid kit
- A mat or an examination table to allow a patient to lie down in the event of an adverse reaction or emergency

## **6. FOLLOW-UP MONITORING**

- 6.1 Beyond usual safety and efficacy monitoring parameters associated with medication use, immediate safety endpoints following administration of an injection are of concern.
- 6.2 Prior to the patient receiving an injection, a plan for immediate short-term follow-up monitoring must be established by the pharmacist.
- 6.3 For injected immunizations, post-immunization observation must occur in accordance with the established standard of care as determined by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Canadian Immunization Guide or other evidence-based guidance as appropriate.