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

POLICY: ADMINISTRATION OF INJECTIONS

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DEFINITIONS

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

This policy provides information on the expectations for pharmacy professionals administering medications via injections to patients.

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.

1. AUTHORIZED PRACTICE

1.1 Pharmacists[1] may administer injections via **IM, ID SC, IV via established port** routes in accordance with the *Regulations* (22.3-22.5), and *the Model Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Canada*.

1.2 Pharmacy technicians[2] may administer injections under the routine supervision[3] 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), and the *Model Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Canada.*

[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.

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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 competency[4] of the delegate as adequate; and

1.6.3 Provides close supervision[5].

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 student[6].

1.8 A pharmacy technician may delegate the technical component of an injection to a pharmacist student, or a pharmacy technician student[6].

1.9 A pharmacist may only delegate an ID injection to a pharmacist student. A pharmacist may only delegate an ID injection if the pharmacist student has 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 ensure that requirements in this Policy are met.

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
- To patients who do not provide informed consent[7] prior to receiving the injection(s)

[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).

[7] https://nbpharmacists.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Revised-Common-Ailments-Orientation-Feb-2025_EN.pdf page 7.

3. EDUCATIONAL AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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

3.1 First Aid/CPR Certification:

Pharmacy professionals and students providing injections via any route described In Regulation 22.3(1) must maintain certification in First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (FA/CPR).

3.2 For IM and SC administration via upper arm:

Pharmacy professionals must successfully complete an accredited education program recognized by the College[8] on administration of injections via IM and SC routes. Once completed, the registrant must proceed to receive authorization from the College (as per Section 7)

For administration via anatomical sites other than the upper arm and pediatric injections (2-5): While specific education is not mandatory, the College encourages professionals to engage in CCCEP-accredited educational programs.

3.3 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 on administration of injections via the ID route.

Upon completion of this mandatory education, pharmacists must login to their online profile with the College and complete the Authorization to Administer Intradermal Injections (ID) application from their homepage.

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

3.4 For intravenous (IV) administration:

Pharmacists are eligible to administer via the IV route through an established port 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 on administration of injections via the IV route. The mandatory physical skills workshop and assessment portion of the education may be completed

[8] The College recognizes the following training:

- Programs that have been accredited by a recognized accreditation organization such as CCCEP and ACPE
- Dalhousie University's Immunization and Injection Administration Training Program
- 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.

at the pharmacist's workplace with a healthcare professional competent in IV administration using a standardized assessment form.

Upon completion of this mandatory education, pharmacists must login to their online profile with the College and complete the Authorization to Administer Intravenous Injections (IV) application from their homepage.

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

3.5 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.

3.6 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.[9]

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 permit to administer injections revoked.

3.6.3 Pharmacy professionals can regain their authorization or permit to administer injections by successfully completing an accredited training program for the relevant route of administration.

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

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

4. POLICIES AND INJECTION PROCEDURES

4.1 Pharmacy managers ensure that policies and procedures for activities associated with the administration of injections are established, implemented and reviewed. This is part of the overall expectations of pharmacy managers to maintain a Quality Management Program as per Regulation 14.2.

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 an assessment has been completed by a pharmacist prior to the injection being provided and
    - The process for notifying a pharmacy technician (with a technical permit) of the appropriateness of administering the injection.

[9] Regulation 12.30

- 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

4.2 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

4.3 A pharmacy professional who is administering an injection via established intravenous port must first:

- complete a Collaborative Practice Agreement and submit to the College

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
- 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 AND 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.

7. 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.

Prior to administering injections via IV 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 IV 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 IV route.

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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.

7.4 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).

7.5 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.

7.6 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 3.5 above provides information on re-establishment of Authorization or a Technical Permit.

8. 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

Educational Program
https://www.dal.ca/faculty/health/cpe/programs1/immunization-andinjectionadministrationtrainingprogram.html

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:

https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/reporting-adverse-events-following-immunization.html

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://cccep.ca/accreditation/competency-mapped-accreditation/immunization-and-injection/

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)

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

Canadian Tuberculosis Standards

https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/tuberculosis/health-professionals/canadian-tuberculosis-standards.html

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