

April 9, 2020

**BULLETIN: Temporary Change to Standard 1.8 “Prescriptions” During the COVID-19 Health Emergency**

In an effort to support physicians and pharmacists in provision of critical services to Yukoners during the COVID-19 public health emergency declared in Yukon on March 18, 2020, and in response to an exemption issued by Health Canada under Section 56 (1) of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) on March 19, 2020, the Yukon Medical Council (YMC) has made the following temporary change to the Standards of Practice for physicians in Yukon Territory.

**Standard 1.8 “Prescriptions”:**

A prescriber will now be permitted to call in or virtually issue a prescription order to a licenced pharmacist or rural permit holder for all medications, including controlled substances.

*The above change will be in effect until the earlier of: revocation by the YMC, or cessation of the CDSA exemption. For greater clarity, the CDSA exemption must be in place for the change to be valid.*

**Temporary Changes to the Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Rural Permit Holders**

A complementary temporary modification has been made to the Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Rural Permit Holders to enable them to receive verbal orders from prescribers for controlled substances.

Additional changes to the Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Rural Permit Holders have been put into place in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and include:

- Pharmacists may see patients virtually or speak to them over the phone rather than seeing them in person for prescription extensions (Modification of Standard 2.5, 12.2(a))
- Pharmacists do not need to notify prescribers of prescription adaptations. (Modification of Standard 11.7, 12.10)
- Methadone and suboxone may now be picked up by a designated HSS employee. Other controlled substances may be securely delivered by Yukon pharmacies for those patients requiring isolation. (Modification of Standard 8.1 and CDSA s.56 exemption)