



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 10, 2018

TO: Practising and Non-Practising Members

FROM: Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals

RE: **Opioid Warning Sticker and Patient Information Handout Required to Accompany Dispensed Opioids**



On April 23rd, 2018, Health Canada announced [Regulations Amending the Food and Drug Regulations](#) on opioids that will alter the current opioid dispensing workflow of pharmacists. These changes have been developed and implemented to reduce the risks associated with the post-market use of these products as well as increase patient awareness of the risks associated with these medications and to encourage safer use.

The changes to the regulations will be **mandatory** and will come into effect **October 2018**. They will require that an opioid warning sticker be placed on all opioids listed on [Part A of the List of Opioids](#) at the time of sale and be accompanied by a patient information handout. Both the warning sticker and patient information handout are mandatory be distributed to patients filling their prescription for the first time and all subsequent refills.

Pharmacies will be responsible for obtaining the warning sticker and patient information handout and must ensure that they meet the specifications set out in the source document. This means that the sticker and handout cannot be altered from the original. Digital representation of the [warning sticker](#) and [patient information handout](#) can be found on the Government of Canada's website.

The warning sticker and handout are not required to be placed on over-the-counter opioid preparations containing a low dose of codeine, an opioid, in combination with two or more other medicinal ingredients, as detailed in s.36(1) of the Narcotic Control Regulations. The warning sticker and handout are also not mandatory when the drug is to be administered under the supervision of a practitioner or if the sale of the drug is to a pharmacist or practitioner.



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The following documents provide additional information released by Health Canada that should be reviewed by pharmacists:

- [New regulations to provide better information for patients on the safe use of opioid medications](#)
- [Information Update about the updating of opioid prescription labels through the class labelling initiative](#)
- [Questions and Answers: Prescription Opioids – Sticker and Handout Requirements for Pharmacists and Practitioners](#)