

Travel Health Key Messages and Q-and-A

KEY MESSAGES

- In April, a new bylaw came into force, allowing pharmacists to prescribe drugs, including vaccines for travel abroad, to people five years of age and older, subject to Council policies and requirements.
- The College has put requirements in place to ensure that pharmacy services provide a safe level of care that meets recommended standards.
- Pharmacist participation is voluntary, and they can choose the level of services they want to provide. Services may range from low-risk travel-health services to high-risk travel-health consultations.
- Regardless of the level of services offered, all pharmacists will follow the established guidelines for immunizing, and all will refer residents to the public health system when appropriate.
- Travelers are responsible for the cost of each vaccine they receive.
- We recognize the important role pharmacists can play in offering travel-health services and vaccination in Saskatchewan. They are highly accessible healthcare providers. With this new authority, pharmacists will assist in making travel-health services more accessible to residents of Saskatchewan.
- This initiative supports the College's vision of quality pharmacy care for a healthier Saskatchewan

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1) Aren't pharmacists doing this already? How is this different from the flu shot?

- The flu shot is one part of Saskatchewan's routine immunization program; many pharmacies offer publicly funded flu shots, at no additional cost to the individual.
- Travel-health services and travel vaccinations are not publicly funded; therefore, clients will pay for this service.
- Up until now, pharmacists have been dispensing and administering vaccines frequently on the order of a physician. Now they can prescribe vaccinations, offering a more complete service in one place.
- For more information on Saskatchewan's immunization program, check the Ministry of Health website.
- For a list of pharmacies offering travel-health services, check the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan website.

2) Does this mean that existing services offered through public health travel clinics are being shut down? Will public health still offer travel health services and vaccinations?

- Pharmacists will work closely with public health offices and physicians in their area, to meet the needs of residents.
- If you have any concerns about the availability of public health services, contact the Ministry of Health or the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

3) Where do I find out if the pharmacy in my area is offering this service?

- For more information on the local pharmacies providing vaccine and travel health services check the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan website, or contact your local pharmacy.

4) Why is this service offered in some communities and not in others?

- This is a specialized area of health care.
- Each pharmacy will decide whether it makes sense to offer this service in their community. Each pharmacist will decide if this is an additional area of practice they want to provide and take steps to ensure they are competent in this expanded scope of practice.

5) Why aren't all pharmacies providing this service?

- This is a specialized service that requires additional training. Some pharmacists in Saskatchewan have taken this training already and will provide services immediately. Others will be assessing the type of services they want to offer and what is needed to deliver quality care in this new area.
- For a list of pharmacies offering travel health services, check the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan website.

6) When can people start getting this service in their community pharmacy?

- It depends on the pharmacists in your area, the training taken to date, and the services the local pharmacies want to deliver.
- Regardless of the level of services offered, all pharmacists will follow the established guidelines for immunizations, and all will refer residents to the public health system when appropriate.

7) Do pharmacists in other provinces deliver this type of service?

- Yes. Other provinces provide these services to varying degrees, such as Alberta, Manitoba and New Brunswick.

8) What is the College doing to ensure that the care offered in pharmacies is safe?

- Each level of travel-health service requires a specific set of competencies to deliver. Pharmacists are responsible for ensuring that they are competent to deliver this service.
- We have been working closely with the University of Saskatchewan to develop training around evidence-based guidelines and standards that pharmacists are expected to follow. This information will help pharmacists assess the level of service they want to offer, the training required, and how to work with the public health system.

The focus of this document is on the public audience, as opposed to information that would be of interest to pharmacists/pharmacies implementing travel health services.

Further information is available to pharmacists/pharmacies in the following reference manual documents:

- [Disease Prevention & Travel Health Services FAQs](#)
- [Administration by Injection Guidelines](#)
- [Administration by Injection FAQs](#)
- [Needlestick Injury Guidelines](#)
- [Patient Self-Administered Injections – Guidelines for the Pharmacist](#)
- [Vaccine Storage, Handling and Transport Guidelines](#)