

PHARMACIST AUTHORIZATION OF PRESCRIPTION EXTENSIONS (PAPE) AGREEMENT

January 2008

The following agreement provides conditions under which a pharmacist may provide authorization of a prescription extension to a patient where an urgent need for patient drug therapy management exists and the prescribing physician is unavailable to provide refill authorization.

This Agreement assumes the following principles:

1. Pharmacist authorization of prescription extensions cannot and does not take the place of ongoing medical care.
2. Each request for a pharmacist authorization of prescription extensions must be judged on the individual nature of the patient's need/history and professional judgment exercised accordingly.
3. The pharmacist assumes the responsibility for the extended refill.

A pharmacist may authorize a prescription extension where the following conditions are met:

1. The pharmacist must be reasonably satisfied that the prescriber, if available, would in all likelihood, provide the authorization.
2. The medication to be extended has been prescribed to the patient for a chronic or long term condition (generally for at least a year or longer).
3. The patient shall have an established, stable history (no recent changes to dosages or drug therapy) with that medication.
4. The prescription to be extended shall be with that particular pharmacy and the patient shall be within the care of the pharmacy.
5. Narcotic or controlled substances shall NOT be authorized for extension within the confines of this agreement.
6. The pharmacist may authorize a prescription extension once only. Further requests for extensions must be handled by the patient's physician or original prescriber or an on-call physician.
7. The amount of medication provided must not exceed the previous amount filled, or three months, whichever is lesser.
8. The pharmacist shall assign a new prescription number to the prescription extended under this agreement (PAPE) and shall record on the prescription the Rx number of the original prescription. The original prescriber shall be listed as the prescriber on the extended prescription. The pharmacist shall be recorded as authorizing the extension.
9. The PAPE shall be documented on the patient record in such a manner as to ensure the prescription will not be "extended" a second time.
10. The PAPE shall be reported in written format within one week to the original prescriber and to the patient's primary care physician (if different from the prescriber). A copy is to be kept in the pharmacy.
11. A prescriber retains the right to indicate "no extension" on a prescription; however this does not preclude the pharmacist from exercising professional judgment in an emergency situation.

Support/endorsement for this policy is being actively sought from the Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacists, as well as from:

The Ontario Pharmacists Association,
The Ontario Medical Association, and
The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

