



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

*Governing the practice of pharmacy for a healthier New Brunswick
Régir l'exercice de la pharmacie pour un Nouveau-Brunswick en meilleure santé*

March 2, 2018

With the rules about wholesaler registration in 2016, the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists can now enforce restrictions on limited access drugs according to the National Drug Schedules [\[LINK\]](#). Wholesalers cannot provide limited-access drugs to a person or other outlets that are not registered with the College (in this case, to retail or convenience stores). This is part of pharmacy legislation in New Brunswick. It became part of the new Pharmacy Act in 2014 and was enacted in 2016 with the registration of wholesalers. Consultations with different partners were part of the implementation process of the new Pharmacy Act in 2014, and helped lead to what is included in legislation today.

The College recently issued an order to a wholesaler in New Brunswick to stop supplying limited access drugs to non-pharmacy retail stores in New Brunswick. The wholesaler has now taken additional steps to recall products and we (the College) see this as the best step to take by the wholesaler to help the College better protect the general public.

Limited access drugs should never be made available to consumers in convenience stores, gas stations, campgrounds, or any other outlet where there is no access to a health professional such as a pharmacist. If these non-pharmacy outlets are still making limited access drugs available to their customers now, they should remove these products immediately.

Limited access drugs are secured in locked cabinets or shelves even at a pharmacy when the pharmacist is not present.

There are currently more than 80 drugs (representing hundreds of branded products) listed in *Schedule U of the National Drug Schedules* that **can** be made safely available to the public at convenience stores and other non-pharmacy outlets.

For example: Tylenol, Advil in certain quantities, Gravol Natural Source, and several cough and cold products that do not contain Pseudoephedrine.

Enforcing regulations like this one can sometimes be seen in a negative light at first. However, following and enforcing regulations and laws that were created by experts in the field of medicine and pharmacy is necessary to promote the safe and effective use of these medications for all New Brunswickers.

The requirements on limited access drugs are set by the National Drug Scheduling Advisory Committee (NDSAC) which includes experts in pharmacotherapy, drug utilization, drug interactions and toxicology, pharmacy practice, academic research, the drug industry and pharmaceutical regulatory affairs both at federal and provincial levels. In addition to these experts, members of the Consumers' Association of Canada and Health Canada's Natural and Non-prescription Health Products Directorate serve on the Committee as observers.

The New Brunswick College of Pharmacists is responsible for regulating the practice of pharmacy in New Brunswick. As important healthcare professionals in New Brunswick, we have an obligation to practice competently, ethically and within the rules and guidelines of pharmacy legislation.

The College will always put the interests of the public above its own members' interests both collectively and individually. Ensuring the safe and appropriate availability of medication is an important part of the responsibility of the NB College of Pharmacists in upholding the safety and protection of all New Brunswickers.