



COLLEGE OF
PHARMACISTS
OF MANITOBA

Your questions answered on exempted codeine products

What are exempted codeine products?

Codeine is a narcotic used as an opioid remedy for the relief of mild to moderate pain and coughs. Some examples of exempted codeine products include, e.g., Tylenol® No. 1, Calmylin® products and Robaxacet-8®.

Why the change in exempted codeine products from an over-the-counter (non-prescription) drug to a prescription drug?

Exempted codeine products can cause serious side effects when not used in the proper dose or overused, such as liver failure, slowed heart rates, weak pulse, confusion, hallucinations, seizures and problems with urination. Other side effects include dizziness, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, constipation, sweating and mild rash. Prescription-only dispensing will allow pharmacists greater opportunities to counsel patients and reduce the chance of drug interactions, side effects, overuse and/or inappropriate use.

When will this change take effect?

The change in exempted codeine products from over-the-counter (non-prescription) to prescription only will take effect on February 1, 2016.

What information will be recorded in the DPIN (Drug Programs Information Network)?

As with all prescriptions, pharmacists are required to enter the patient's name and personal health identification number, date of purchase, product name, and quantity (maximum quantity 100 tablets or 250 mLs) into the DPIN. They must also indicate the ailment being treated on the prescription.

Who can prescribe exempted codeine products?

A patient must be assessed in person by a physician, authorized nurse practitioner, dentist, or pharmacist before receiving a prescription for an exempted codeine product. Additional time will be required for assessment including: the patient's symptoms and severity, medical history, allergies and sensitivities, pregnancy and breast feeding status, and current medications.

What should I expect from my pharmacist when filling a prescription for an exempted codeine product?

Your pharmacist is required to counsel you on all prescriptions, including prescriptions for an exempted codeine product.

IT'S ALL ABOUT SAFETY!



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Who is the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba?

The College of Pharmacists of Manitoba is the pharmacy regulatory and licensing authority in Manitoba. Established in 1878, the principal mandate of the College is to protect the health and well-being of the public by ensuring and promoting safe, patient-centred, and progressive pharmacy practice in collaboration with other health-care providers.



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