

Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP)

Information for Yukon Physician Prescribers

Introduction

In 1986 the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) established the Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP) to monitor the use of certain drugs prone to misuse and abuse for non-medical purposes.

- CPSA administers the TPP for all program participants on behalf of the Yukon Medical Council (YMC)
- **Physician Prescribers must register with the TPP** in order to prescribe medications on the TPP list. Please contact the YMC office at (867) 667-3774 to register.
- The complete list of TPP medications can be found on the [CPSA website](#).
- To prescribe any of these medications it is **mandatory** that physician prescribers use TPP prescription forms. Failure to complete the TPP form **may result in rejection of the prescription by the pharmacist** with resulting disruption to patient care.

Triplicate Prescription Forms

- TPP forms are three-part prescription forms. The physician prescriber retains the PRACTITIONER COPY. The top two parts of the form are to be used by the pharmacist to dispense the medication.
- **TPP forms are personalized and must NOT be shared.** The physician prescriber's name, business address, and a unique prescriber identification number are imprinted on the pads.
- **Order new pads when you are running low.** Physician prescribers may order additional forms by phone, fax, or email from:
 - CPSA (see first page of your TPP pad); or
 - [YMC](#).

If you run out of forms before your new pads arrive: contact the [YMC](#) office for some temporary forms.

Security

- When a physician prescriber retires, leaves practice, or leaves Yukon, unused TPP forms and/or pads must be returned to the [YMC](#) for proper destruction.
- Physician prescribers should ensure the security of their TPP forms to avoid misuse by individuals seeking to improperly obtain TPP medications.
- Should a triplicate prescription pad be **lost or stolen**, the physician prescriber should contact the RCMP and must notify the [YMC](#) office immediately. The physician prescriber should provide the following information to the YMC:
 - Date of loss or theft,
 - Serial number(s) of missing pad(s),
 - Name of the last patient prescribed a triplicate prescription, and
 - The police file number and the investigating Constable's name and phone number.

Prescribing Information

The following must appear on each copy of the TPP form:

- **Date:** Prescriptions issued on a TPP form are only valid for 72 hours from the date prescribed.
- **Yukon Health Care Number:** is required for patient identification. If the patient is from out of province, the name of that province should be indicated with the number.
- **Patient Name:** The provision of all given names reduces duplication of patient profiles in the TPP database.
- **Date of Birth:** Date of birth assists in identification of patients with a common name.
- **Patient's Address:** The address provides further verification of the patient's identity in the TPP database.
- **Drug and Strength:** A separate form is required for each TPP medication. Different strengths of the same medication may be ordered on one form provided the orders are legible and clearly indicate the prescribed dosage and quantity.
- **Quantity:** The total quantity of the prescription must be indicated both numerically and in written form to deter forgery.
- **Directions For Use:** The directions for use should be as complete as possible as this assists in verifying quantities. An interval may be noted here for part-fills.

Faxing TPP forms directly from the physician prescriber's office is acceptable and, in some cases, may be preferred over issuing the prescription to the patient in order to reduce prescription fraud and to discourage poly-pharmacy. Once faxed, the original copy of the TPP form must be destroyed or marked 'VOID' and must not be given to the patient. Verbal orders for triplicate prescription medications are NOT permitted.

Pharmacists should NOT fill prescriptions for **TPP medications issued on regular prescription forms**. Occasionally, there are legitimate circumstances where the physician prescriber has used a regular prescription as a temporary substitute for the TPP form. The pharmacist may dispense the TPP medication in this situation if the pharmacist is satisfied regarding the circumstance. The physician prescriber must ensure that the pharmacist receives the TPP form as soon as it is available. Once the pharmacist receives the TPP form, they must submit both the CPSA copy and a photocopy of the original (non-triplicate) prescription to CPSA.

Methadone Prescriptions

Physicians must hold a Methadone Exemption issued by Health Canada in order to prescribe methadone for opioid dependency or pain management. Contact the [YMC](#) to find out more.

Use of Triplicate Prescription Data

Upon receipt of the CPSA copy of the TPP form, data from the prescription is entered into a database. Reports are generated and analyzed on a monthly basis to **monitor utilization rates** for the TPP medications. **Prescribing patterns** are also monitored. Physician prescribers flagged by the program are sent correspondence on a monthly basis. Statistical reports are also generated to monitor utilization and dispensing trends. **Any physician prescriber may request a patient's TPP profile from the CPSA (780-969-4939) to assist in providing patient care or if double doctoring or poly-pharmacy is suspected.**

Figure 1: Prescribing and Dispensing Information

The following information must appear on all three copies of the TPP form:

ALBERTA TRIPPLICATE PRESCRIPTION FORM
 Void after three days.
 Take both copies to pharmacy of choice.
 PLEASE PRINT

HEALTH CARE NUMBER DATE ISSUED YY | MM | DD

PATIENT NAME FIRST NAME INITIAL LAST NAME

MALE FEMALE DATE OF BIRTH YY | MM | DD

ADDRESS CITY PROVINCE

ONLY ONE DRUG/DOSAGE PER FORM NO REFILLS PERMITTED

DRUG NAME & DOSAGE

QUANTITY: NUMERIC ALPHA

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

NO SUBSTITUTE PRESCRIBER'S SIGNATURE

5312604

PHARMACY USE ONLY

DATE DISPENSED YY | MM | DD RX #

D.I.N. QUANTITY PHARMACY LIC.#

PHARMACIST'S SIGN. & CERT.#

PHARMACY COPY RECEIVED BY

349941

Callout Boxes:

- A Yukon Health Care Number is required for patient identification. If the patient is from out of province, indicate the province with the number. If the patient is an animal, this field is left blank.
- The pharmacist must be presented with the top two copies of the TPP form.
- Prescriptions are only valid for 72 hours. The prescription cannot be honoured after midnight of the third day.
- Date of birth assists in identification of patients with a common name. If the prescription is written by a veterinarian for an animal, the animal's date of birth must appear here.
- The provision of all given names reduces duplication of patient profiles in the TPP database. If the prescription is written by a veterinarian for an animal, the form should include the animal name followed by the owner's name in brackets.
- A separate form is required for each TPP medication. Different strengths of the same medication are permitted on the same form provided the orders are legible and clearly indicate the prescribed dosage and quantity.
- The patient's address provides further verification of their identity within the TPP database.
- The total quantity of the prescription must be indicated both numerically and alphabetically to deter forgery. Refills are not permitted.
- The directions for use must be as complete as possible as this assists in verifying quantities. An interval must be noted here for part-fills.
- Physician Prescribers must only use their own personalized TPP
- The pharmacist compares the date dispensed to the date issued. If the prescription is to be put on hold, it should be documented as "deferred".
- Pharmacy assigned prescription number
- The DIN(s) of the drug(s) dispensed is (are) indicated here. If the prescription is compounded, the DIN of the TPP medication component is identified here. If the compounding agent does not have a DIN number, indicate the agent here (do not use pseudo DIN 999999)
- Yukon does not currently licence pharmacies.
- The pharmacist responsible for assessing the prescription for appropriateness is identified by their practice permit (licence) number.
- The quantity dispensed is verified against the quantity ordered. Part fills are accepted if the total quantity, the amount dispensed each time, and the time interval between fills is specified. Document part fills as the amount dispensed over the total quantity (30/90).
- The patient or patient's agent should sign for the TPP medication upon the receipt of the medication. Pharmacists should NOT ask the patient to sign for the medication before it is dispensed.