

Pharmacy Initiative

The Pharmacy Initiative is a suite of legislative and regulatory tools, listed below, that will govern pharmacy services in Yukon. The initiative will modernize the regulation of pharmacists and regulate rural physicians licensed to dispense medications (called rural permit holders), pharmacies, and rural dispensaries for the first time.

Legislation for the Pharmacy Initiative is interdependent. The *Pharmacy and Drug Act* cannot come into force until regulations for pharmacists and rural permit holders, and pharmacies and dispensaries are completed and approved.

The components of the Pharmacy Initiative, and their status, are:

1. *Health Professions Act* (In Force)
2. Pharmacist Regulation (**Draft for consultation**)
3. Code of Ethics for Pharmacists and Rural Permit Holders (**Draft for consultation**)
4. Standards of Practice for Pharmacists (**Draft for consultation**)
5. Standards of Practice for Rural Permit Holders (**Draft for consultation**)
6. *Pharmacy and Drug Act* (Assented To April 30, 2015) – (Not yet in force)
7. Pharmacy and Rural Dispensary Regulation (Anticipated for future consultation)
8. Code of Ethics for Pharmacy and Rural Dispensary Owners (Anticipated for future consultation)
9. Standards for the Operation of Pharmacies (Anticipated for future consultation)
10. Standards for the Operation of Rural Dispensaries (Anticipated for future consultation)

Pharmacy Regulation

The legislation governing pharmacists requires modernization to keep pace with current national trends and regulatory standards of professional practice, and to support public safety.

The Government of Yukon is now seeking public input on the draft pharmacist regulation. Highlights of the proposed changes follow.

Highlights of Draft Pharmacist Regulation

Below are proposed changes to the regulation of pharmacists

<p>Scope of Practice</p>	<p>The proposed scope of practice for pharmacists has been expanded to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending an existing prescription beyond the refills authorized by the prescriber, which will ensure continuity of care; • adapting an existing prescription to ensure that the drug, dose, formulation or regimen is appropriate for the patient, or to substitute a generic drug as long as the prescriber has not prohibited the substitution; and • allowing pharmacists to administer a drug directly to the patient by inhalation.
<p>Standards of Practice</p>	<p>Proposed individual standards of practice have been developed for rural permit holders and for pharmacists.</p> <p>There is one Code of Ethics, which applies to both pharmacists and rural permit holders.</p> <p>Both the standards and the code of ethics may be amended by the registrar upon consultation with the Pharmacy Advisory Committee.</p>
<p>Prerequisite and Ongoing Registration: Licensure</p>	<p>Pharmacists be licensed in another jurisdiction prior to being registered in Yukon and maintain that jurisdiction's licensure.</p>
<p>Registration in Yukon</p>	<p>To provide pharmacy services in Yukon, all service providers, regardless of where they are located (i.e., another province or territory), must be registered and abide by the legislation governing pharmacists and pharmacist corporations in Yukon. This includes pharmacists and pharmacist corporations providing services on the tele-health information line.</p>
<p>Classes of Registrants</p>	<p>Streamlined classes of registrants include full, courtesy, student, and rural permit. Post-graduate interim pharmacists need to perform their practical intern hours in another jurisdiction and register as a full registrant in that jurisdiction prior to registering in Yukon.</p>
<p>Rural Permit Holders</p>	<p>Rural permit holders may only practice in and dispense drugs from a rural dispensary, and only to their own patients or those patients at the clinic in which they practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is more than one rural permit holder practicing in the clinic/dispensary, the prescription must be filled by a second rural permit holder, subject to reasonable availability.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an existing prescription requires alteration or adaptation, this activity must be performed as a physician rather than as a rural permit holder. <p>The regulation explicitly sets out that practicing as a rural permit holder does not absolve a physician from responsibilities under the <i>Medical Profession Act</i> and their licence.</p>
Student Pharmacists	Students must be registered in the practical training program of a College of Pharmacy that directs and monitors the training program and approves both the full registrant pharmacist and the pharmacy in Yukon that is supervising the student. Students may not prescribe or dispense drugs.
Corporations	Regulation will enable registration of Pharmacist Corporations.
Declarations	All Yukon registrants will be required to sign a declaration that they have reviewed, understand, and will abide by all the applicable legislation, standards, codes, and any other materials prescribed by the registrar.
Fees	Yukon fees will remain comparatively low by national standards, as registrants will be required to maintain licensure in another jurisdiction. The fee for registration and renewal is \$100, with a \$200 late fee. There is a \$25 fee for a certificate of professional conduct.
Renewal of Registration	The application, including any required documentation, and the fee for any class of registrant must be received 30 days prior to the expiration date.
Limitation of Action	The limitation of action is set at six years from the time the incident occurred for the registrar to issue a summons to appear before a discipline committee.
Veterinarians	Veterinarians can prescribe, compound, dispense and sell drugs for animals. If the treatment requires pharmacy services, a prescription will be required.

The draft Pharmacist and Rural Permit Holder regulation, draft standards of practice and code of ethics are available for public review from April 21 to July 21, 2017, at www.community.gov.yk.ca.

Please email your comments to <mailto:plra@gov.yk.ca> by July 21, 2017.