



Policy AA-22 Nurse Practitioner (NP) Prescribing Controlled Drugs and Substances

Approved By	CEO/Registrar	Review Frequency	Every five years
Approval Date	June 14, 2022	Date Reviewed/Revised	July 7, 2026

Rationale:

Nurse Practitioners must obtain authorization to prescribe controlled drugs and substances. Nurse Practitioners who have not completed the required education and regulatory requirements outlined in this policy will have a condition placed on their certificate of practice prohibiting them from prescribing controlled drugs and substances.

Purpose:

To specify the requirements for Nurse Practitioners to obtain authorization to prescribe controlled drugs and substances including buprenorphine, methadone or diacetylmorphine.

- Authority: Section 5(1) of *The Regulated Health Professions Act* identifies performance of a reserved act is restricted unless the person is a member of a regulated health profession and is authorized by regulation to perform the reserved act.
- Section 3.9 of *The College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba General Regulation* identifies that a Nurse Practitioner may prescribe a drug that is listed in Schedule 1 of the Manual for Canada's National Drug Scheduling System published by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities, subject to the restrictions set out in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (Canada) and the regulations under that Act.

Policy:

Requirements for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) to prescribe controlled drugs and substances, (not including buprenorphine for opioid dependence, methadone or diacetylmorphine)



1. NPs are required to review the Manitoba Prescribing Practices Program (M3P) presentation and correctly answer 100% of the M3P post-test questions.
2. NPs who have completed education which does not include current competencies for prescribing controlled drugs and substances are required to correctly answer 100% of the M3P post-test questions as well as submit a certificate of successful completion of a course of instruction approved by the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (CRNM) i.e.
 - *Prescribing Narcotics and Controlled Substances* course, Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Program, School of Nursing University of Ottawa,
 - *Controlled Drugs and Substances: Essential Management and Prescribing Practices* course, University of Toronto, or
 - *Controlled Drugs and Substances* course, Athabasca University.
3. NPs who have not completed these requirements will have a condition placed on their certificate of practice prohibiting them from prescribing controlled drugs and substances.
4. To have the above condition removed, the NP must successfully complete 1. and 2. above.

Requirements for NPs to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid dependence

5. NPs must successfully complete 1. and 2. above.
6. NPs must not have a condition on their certificate of practice prohibiting them from prescribing controlled drugs and substances.
7. NPs must confirm they achieved the required competencies to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder and submit a request to gain the authority to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder.
8. NPs must submit a certificate of successful completion of a course of instruction in the competencies necessary for prescribing buprenorphine e.g.
 - *Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder*, or
 - *British Columbia Centre for Substance Use – Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program* online course.



Requirements for NPs to prescribe methadone for opioid use disorder

9. NPs must successfully complete 1. and 2. above.
10. NPs must not have a condition on their certificate of practice prohibiting them from prescribing controlled drugs and substances.
11. NPs must submit a certificate of successful completion of a course of instruction in the competencies necessary for prescribing methadone, e.g.
 - *British Columbia Centre for Substance Use – Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program* online course.
12. NPs must complete a clinical practical experience comprised of four – half days with an approved experienced methadone prescriber for opioid use disorder.
13. Within the timeframe specified on the notation, NPs must submit a renewal application specifying education and practice completed to maintain methadone prescribing competency.

Requirements for NPs to prescribe methadone for analgesia

14. NPs must have successfully completed 1. and 2. above.
15. NPs must not have a condition on their certificate of practice prohibiting them from prescribing controlled drugs and substances.
16. NPs must submit a certificate of successful completion of *Methadone for Pain in Palliative Care* online course.



References:

Athabasca University. Controlled Drugs and Substances for NP Prescribers.

<https://www.athabascau.ca/syllabi/nurs/nurs531.html>

British Columbia Centre for Substance Use. Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program Online Course. [https://ubccpd.ca/learn/learning-](https://ubccpd.ca/learn/learning-activities/course?eventtemplate=516)

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Canadian Virtual Hospice (2015) Methadone for Pain in Palliative.

<https://www.virtualhospice.ca/learninghub#methadone>

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (2026) Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder. [https://www.camh.ca/en/education/academy/continuing-education-](https://www.camh.ca/en/education/academy/continuing-education-directory/buprenorphine-treatment-for-opioid-use-disorder)

[directory/buprenorphine-treatment-for-opioid-use-disorder](https://www.camh.ca/en/education/academy/continuing-education-directory/buprenorphine-treatment-for-opioid-use-disorder)

College of Pharmacists of Manitoba (2020) Manitoba Prescribing Practices Program (M3P).

[https://www.cpsm.mb.ca/prescribing-practices-program/manitoba-prescribing-practices-](https://www.cpsm.mb.ca/prescribing-practices-program/manitoba-prescribing-practices-program-m3p)
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[College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba General Regulation, M.R. 114/2017,](#)

The Regulated Health Professions Act C.C.S.M. c. R117 (Manitoba).

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University of Ottawa. Prescribing Narcotics and Controlled Substances for Nurse Practitioners.

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[%20English.aspx?iProductCode=NUR2300003&Category=FEES](https://estore.uottawa.ca/UOttawaStore/UOttawaStore/Shop/Nursing/Prescribing%20Narcotics%20and%20Controlled%20Substances%20-%20English.aspx?iProductCode=NUR2300003&Category=FEES)

University of Toronto. Controlled Drugs and Substances: Essential Management and

Prescribing Practices. [https://bloomberg.nursing.utoronto.ca/cpd-course/controlled-drugs-](https://bloomberg.nursing.utoronto.ca/cpd-course/controlled-drugs-and-substances-essential-management-and-prescribing-practices/)
[and-substances-essential-management-and-prescribing-practices/](https://bloomberg.nursing.utoronto.ca/cpd-course/controlled-drugs-and-substances-essential-management-and-prescribing-practices/)