

Pharmacists prescribing for minor ailments

Presenters: Cassandra Tsai & Joe Civello | September 20, 2023

Background



As of January 1, 2023, the province announced that Ontario pharmacists can now prescribe medications for 13 minor ailments. The intended purpose of this change is to expand the pharmacist's ability to provide care, improve patient access to health care, and help reduce the current strain on primary care.

Provincial update:

Effective October 1, 2023, the province is expanding the pharmacist's ability to provide care for six additional minor ailments, adding to the list of 13 that came into effect at the beginning of 2023.



19 minor ailments treated by pharmacists

Some of the ailments listed below can result from work-related injuries or illnesses:

- Hay fever (allergic rhinitis)
- Oral thrush (candida stomatitis)
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis; bacterial, allergic or viral)
- Dermatitis (atopic, eczema, allergic and contact)
- Menstrual cramps (dysmenorrhea)
- Acid reflux (gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD))
- Hemorrhoids
- Cold sores
- Impetigo
- Insect bites and hives
- Tick bites (PEP to prevent Lyme disease)
- Sprains and strains (musculoskeletal)
- Urinary tract infections (uncomplicated)
- Acne (mild)
- Aphthous ulcers (canker sores)
- Diaper dermatitis
- Vulvovaginal candidiasis
- Pinworms and threadworms
- Nausea and vomiting of pregnancy

New!
Effective
October 1, 2023

What you need to know



Health care

Section 32 of the *WSIA* and Policy 17-01-02, Entitlement to Health Care, state the receipt of **prescription drugs** is considered health care

Over-the-counter (OTC) recommendations are **not** considered health care



Reporting obligations

Policy 15-01-02, Employers' Initial Accident-Reporting Obligations states employers must report a work-related accident to the WSIB if they learn that a worker requires health care **(i.e., prescription drugs from a pharmacist)**



When you **must** to report

When a person with injury or illness seeks a minor ailment assessment with a pharmacist and receives prescription drugs



When you **do not** need to report

When a person with injury or illness seeks a minor ailment assessment with a pharmacist who recommends OTC treatment

Exception(s): Lost time, pay or modified duties greater than seven calendar days

When in doubt, report the injury to the WSIB

How to report

- No new WSIB forms
- Complete the Employer’s Report of Injury or Illness (Form 7)
- Complete the Health Care section of the report:

1. Did the worker receive health care for this injury.
Check: “Yes”
Input: Date of health care
2. When did the employer learn that the worker received health care?
Enter: Date notified
3. Where was the worker treated for this injury?
Check: “Other”
Type: “Pharmacist”

wsib | wsib.ca ONTARIO

7 Employer's Report of Injury or Illness (Form 7)

Please PRINT in black ink

Worker Name: _____ Social Insurance Number: _____

C. Accident/Illness Dates and Details (Continued)

7. Did the accident/illness happen on the employer's premises (owned, leased or maintained)? yes no Specify where (shop floor, warehouse, client/customer site, parking lot, etc.): _____

8. Did the accident/illness happen outside the Province of Ontario? yes no If **yes**, where (city, province/state, country): _____

9. Are you aware of any witnesses or other employees involved in this accident/illness? yes no If **yes**, provide name(s), position(s), and work phone number(s): _____

D. Health Care

1. Did the worker receive health care for this injury? yes no If **yes**, when: **0 6 0 9 2 3** dd mm yy

2. When did the employer learn that the worker received health care? **0 8 0 9 2 3** dd mm yy

3. Where was the worker treated for this injury? (**Please check all that apply**)

On-site health care Ambulance Emergency department Admitted to hospital Health professional office Clinic

Other: **Pharmacist**

Name, address and phone number of health professional or facility who treated this worker (if known):

Shoppers Drug Mart
 1705 Yonge St., Toronto, ON.

E. Lost Time - No Lost Time

1. Please choose one of the following indicators. After the day of accident/awareness of illness, this worker:

Returned to his/her regular job and has not lost any time and/or earnings. (Complete sections G and J).

Returned to modified work and has not lost any time and/or earnings. (Complete sections F, G, and J).

Has lost time and/or earnings. (Complete ALL remaining sections).

Provide date worker first lost time: dd mm yy Date worker returned to work (if known): dd mm yy regular work modified work

2. This Lost Time - No Lost Time - Modified Work information was confirmed by: _____ Telephone: _____ Ext. _____

Myself Other Name: _____

F. Return To Work

1. Have you been provided with work limitations for this worker's injury? yes no

2. Has modified work been discussed with this worker? yes no

3. Has modified work been offered to this worker? yes no If **yes**, was it Accepted Declined If Declined please attach a copy of the written offer given to the worker.

4. Who is responsible for arranging worker's return to work? Myself Other Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Ext. _____

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Adjudicative process

*“The purpose of the pharmacist’s assessment is **not to diagnose**, but to determine the most appropriate therapeutic option for the patient”*

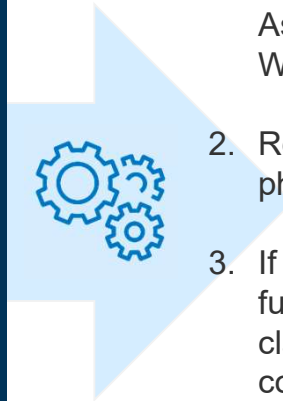
– Ontario College of Pharmacists

Policy 11-01-01, Adjudicative Process, states an allowable claim must have the following five points:

- an employer,
- a worker,
- personal work-related injury,
- proof of accident, and
- **compatibility of diagnosis to accident or disablement history.**

Our approach to decision-making

1. Provide education to the person with injury or illness that pharmacists are unable to provide a diagnosis. As a result, we are unable to adjudicate the claim for WSIB benefits.
2. Recommend health care with a physician, physiotherapist, chiropractor or nurse practitioner.
3. If the person with injury confirms their intention to seek further health care, the decision maker will hold onto the claim and adjudicate it once the health care report or confirmation is obtained.
4. If no further health care is required or the person with injury or illness does not follow through on their commitment to receive further health care, the claim will be **held in abeyance** or **denied** (applies to requests for secondary entitlement).



Pharmacist billing and reporting



- ***Collaboration with Ontario Pharmacist's Association (OPA)***
- Minor ailment assessment fee:
 - Alignment with Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in collaboration with OPA
- Pharmacist Records:
 - Pharmacist provides copy of health records to primary health provider
 - In rare circumstances, WSIB may contact pharmacists for records

Education & key messages



Injured / Ill Persons, Employers & Representatives

- Initial accident-reporting obligations
- When pharmacists prescribing for minor ailments is considered health care
- Guidance to refer people with injuries or illness to seek further health care
- How to complete the Employer's Report of Injury (Form 7) to accurately reflect treatment by a pharmacist.

Pharmacists, Pharmacy Association & College

- To ask patients if they are being assessed for a work-related injury/illness
- Refer people with work-related injuries/ illnesses to a physician, physiotherapist, chiropractor or nurse practitioner for further assessment and diagnosis
- Encourage people with injuries or illnesses to report the injury to their employer and/or WSIB
- Billing & payment information

Discussion