



## **Triplicate Prescription Program Directive**

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All physicians licensed and practicing medicine in the Yukon must participate in the Triplicate Prescription Program as outlined in the attached memorandum.

The Registrar's office notifies physicians when there is indication that a patient has received prescriptions for triplicate narcotics and drugs from more than three practitioners.

This notification is not intended to discourage the appropriate prescribing of narcotics and drugs to patients with an illness where significant pain is the primary symptom. It is intended to reduce inappropriate prescribing to patients with dependency needs and to substantially reduce prescribing of drugs intended for diversion into non-medical use.

If you are suspect of a patient's request for a triplicate prescription narcotic or drug, or recognize a possible dependency, you can fax the College of Physicians of Alberta Triplicate Prescription Program at (780) 412-2680 for the patient's drug profile. You can also telephone the TPP office (780) 423-4764 for immediate information. Please have the patient's name, date of birth and health insurance number available.

This service is available to you to ensure that your patients are receiving optimal health care.



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The Yukon is a participating member of the Triplicate Prescription Program with the Alberta College of Physicians & Surgeons. Physicians prescribing drugs or narcotics on the triplicate prescription list **must** use the triplicate prescription pads.

To re-order triplicate prescription pads, please phone the Triplicate Prescription Office at (780) 423-4764; or by fax at (780) 420-0651.

Since the Programs' conception, there have been favorable indications of pattern changes to prescribing habits, and physicians have been advised of possible drug shopping by certain patients.

The program allows the Council to:

- Generate prescriber, patient, and pharmacy profiles relevant to the panel of monitored drugs;
- Observe prescribing habits of practitioners and activities of pharmacists and to provide advice to prevent serious problems from developing;
- Detect changing trends among users of these drugs;
- Provide accurate and up-to-date information if a patient is drug shopping, upon written request from a prescriber or pharmacy;
- Identify patients who see more than three physicians concurrently for any panel of drugs and notify the practitioners
- Generate statistics and reports relevant to the panel of monitored drugs as prescribed by an individual practitioner.



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The drugs that are monitored and must be prescribed by the triplicate prescription pad include:

- Pentazocine
- Hydrocodone Dihydrocodeinone
- Oxycodone
- Hydromorphone-Dihydromorphone
- Meperidine Pethidine
- Methylphenidate
- Butabarbital Preparations
- Normethadone-Hydroxyephedrine
- Anileridine
- Levorphanol Tartrate
- Morphine Hydrochloride
- Morphine Sulfate
- Oxymorphone-Hydrochloride
- Fentanyl, Sufentanyl, Alfentanyl
- Methadone

***(Note: may only be prescribed by those physicians authorized by Health Protection Branch (Canada) and the Yukon Medical Council)***

-Anabolic Steroids *(Note: does not include topical preparations or combinations preparations, such as Climacteron).*



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A more complete listing of drugs may be obtained from the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons. The College will also include, with your request for a prescription pad, an information handout on security and prescribing that is relevant to this program.

Prescribers are reminded to maintain accurate medical records indicating the history, physical findings, indication and on-going assessments for effectiveness of the medication and to its effects on the day-to-day functions of the patient.

The following amendments have been made to the program that pertain to Yukon prescribers only. These are not noted on the information handouts.

- 1. Prescriptions are good for three days from the date prescribed.**

***This program is not intended to discourage the appropriate prescribing of narcotics to patients with an illness where significant pain is the primary symptom. It is intended to reduce inappropriate prescribing to patients with dependency needs and to substantially reduce prescribing of drugs intended for diversion into non-medical use.***