



ADVISORY: DRUG RECALL NOTIFICATION

June 2, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

RE: Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (ARBs)

As per the [safety alert](#) from Health Canada, there is a significant recall of Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (ARBs) including irbesartan, losartan and valsartan due to an azido impurity, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan ([CPSS](#)) is working in collaboration with the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals ([SCPP](#)) and the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association ([SRNA](#)) to manage this recall.

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) passed emergency exemptions to the [Regulatory Bylaws Part K section 10\(5\)](#), which expand the prescriptive authority for pharmacists, in extraordinary circumstances, and allow the Registrar of the SCPP to waive some of the restrictions and conditions when it is in the public interest to do so.

To ensure the continuity of care for patients using ARBs, the Registrar of the SCPP has enacted the [emergency exemptions](#), allowing pharmacists to prescribe therapeutic substitutions, in collaboration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association and the Ministry of Health.

These emergency exemptions will be in place effective immediately for a period of four (4) months **ending September 30, 2021**. The exemption will be reviewed periodically should it need to be shortened or extended based on circumstances.

The ARB recall has the potential to have a large impact on the public in addition to a significant workload on practitioners and pharmacists. Without these emergency measures, those pharmacies that do not have individual collaborative practice agreements in place with practitioners would need to contact the practitioner for every patient affected by the ARB recall in order to switch their medications to an [alternative](#).

As such, to manage this recall in a safe and responsible manner to ensure patient safety and to include care providers in the decision making, effective immediately:

- **the physician or nurse practitioner can proactively change the patient to another ARB, or**
- **in the absence of physician or nurse practitioner guidance, the pharmacist may substitute to an alternative ARB at an equivalent dose, and**
 - **notify the physician or nurse practitioner of the switch through the Therapeutic Substitution Pharmacists Assessment Record (TS PAR)**
 - **instruct the patient to follow up with their primary care provider as soon as possible, usually within two or three weeks and**
- **where collaborative agreements between the pharmacist and the physician/NP exist, the providers involved will agree on which system they wish to utilize.**

Sincerely,

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association

Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals

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