



SASKATCHEWAN
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
PROFESSIONALS



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DATE: 08/06/2025

TO: CDSS, CPSS, CRNS

FROM: Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals

RE: Switching Combination Products to Single-Ingredient Products (SAME proper/common name)

Dear Colleagues,

Health Canada has communicated the following in light of ongoing drug shortages:

Regulations under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) authorize pharmacists to sell or provide a controlled substance to a person if they have received a prescription or a written order from a practitioner. Per Health Canada's guidance document [Prescription management by pharmacists with controlled substances under the CDSA and its regulations](#), pharmacists are permitted to adjust the formulation, dose, and regimen of a controlled substance that has been prescribed to a patient, as long as the **quantity dispensed does not exceed the amount originally authorized**.

For example, adjusting a prescription for Oxycocet (one tablet) by dispensing its constituent components, acetaminophen and oxycodone, as two separate tablets would be considered an activity falling within the scope of these provisions as long as the amount of oxycodone does not exceed the amount prescribed.

This aligns with [SCPP policy](#) that *combination products switched to single ingredient products with the SAME proper common name* is within a pharmacist's **dispensing** scope of practice.

The [SCPP/NAPRA Standards of Practice](#) apply regardless of whether the pharmacist dispenses a combination product or single-ingredient products. This includes requirements for **patient assessment, consultation, documentation, and the professional judgement required to determine the clinical appropriateness of the drug being dispensed**.

Sincerely,

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