What is currently in place?

**NP Prescribing Standards, Limits and Conditions: Incorporating the prescribing of Controlled Drugs and Substances**

On May 30, 2016, the CRNBC board approved updates to the NP prescribing standards, limits and conditions. These are **not yet in effect**. The revised standards, limits and conditions will come into effect following amendments to the *Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation* related to compounding, dispensing and administering Schedule 1A drugs, and in alignment with CRNBC board effective dates.

The final version of the draft, not in effect standard is available on the [CRNBC website](https://crnbc.org).

**CRNBC Learning Module**

The learning module is almost ready. More information will be available in the June *Nursing Matters—NP newsletter*.

**PharmaNet**

Before prescribing CDS, NPs need to register with Ministry of Health for the Access to PharmaNet Program appropriate to the practice site(s) where they will be prescribing controlled drugs and substances.

You will need to work with your employer or directly with PharmaNet to secure this access.

**Controlled Prescription Program**

CRNBC is working with our partners to put this program in place for NPs.
What still needs to happen?

- Updates to *Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioners Regulation* need to be finalized
- CDS standards, limits & conditions come into effect
- CRNBC launches CPP program
- Employers establishing supports for NPs to prescribe. *Not that some employers may restrict NP prescribing (see below)*

Requirements

**A FEW THINGS TO NOTE**

Not all NPs will want to prescribe CDS. If you do, you must meet several conditions:

1. **Take one of three courses outlined in the prescribing standard**
   - University of Ottawa Continuing Educational Development of NPs Prescribing Narcotics and Controlled Substances  
     [http://cpd.np-education.ca/?post_type=products&p=36](http://cpd.np-education.ca/?post_type=products&p=36)
   - Athabasca University: Prescription and Management of Controlled Drugs and Substances  
     [http://fhd.athabascau.ca/programs/pd/](http://fhd.athabascau.ca/programs/pd/)
   - Saskatchewan Polytechnic Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) online module  

   *Note that you are not required to send CRNBC proof of course completion. You should retain the certificate and document the course in your professional development planning as part of meeting quality assurance requirements.*

2. **Take the CRNBC CDS prescribing learning module**

   This module builds on the knowledge gained in the foundational course NPs take on CDS prescribing. It includes information and activities designed to support NPs in:

   - Applying the relevant federal and provincial legislation
   - Understanding the CRNBC Standards, Limits, Conditions and Competencies for prescribing CDS in the context of NP practice.
Recognizing the risks and mitigating factors associated with prescribing CDS.
Utilizing pharmacovigilance and applying best practices to mitigate these risks
Being aware and applying the requirements of the Controlled Prescription Program and PharmaNet when prescribing CDS.

3. Meet the standards, limits & conditions set out in the CDS prescribing standard (when it comes into effect)

4. Meet employer conditions
Not all employers will allow NPs to prescribe. You must meet your employer’s organizational policies and procedures. Before proceeding, discuss your plan to prescribe CDS with your employer, and follow all required guidelines, standards and/or restrictions.

5. PharmaNet access
Before prescribing CDS, NPs need to register with Ministry of Health for the Access to PharmaNet Program appropriate to the practice site(s) where they will be prescribing controlled drugs and substances.

You will need to work with your employer or directly with PharmaNet to secure this access.

OVERSIGHT
CRNBC is implementing a rigorous oversight program for the NP CDS prescribing.

The processes for prescription review are currently being developed. We are working closely with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (CPSBC) and the Ministry of Health to establish policy and operational processes that build on the experience and evaluation of the CPSBC to date.

As you know, public safety is central to our mandate and establishing processes for monitoring, assessing, and acting on prescribing practices is foundational to the approach that we will take. Development in this area is ongoing; once we have a monitoring framework established we will share that with you more broadly.