

Guideline:	Prescribing and Administering Drugs
Approved By:	CMNL
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PRESCRIBING AND ADMINISTERING DRUGS FOR REGISTERED MIDWIVES

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the responsibilities of Registered Midwives when prescribing and administering of drugs.

Definition

A Registered Midwife may, in accordance with the midwifery scope of practice, guidelines and policies approved by CMNL:

- a) Prescribe and administer medications.
- b) Prescribe and administer narcotics and sedatives that are controlled drugs within the meaning of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada) as determined by the federal Department of Health.

Registered Midwives have the necessary knowledge, skills, and judgment to prescribe drugs from the Pharmacy List (Appendix A). Registered Midwives may:

- a) **Independent:** Prescribe, order and administer drugs independently.
- b) **Consultation:** Following a medical consultation prescribe, order and administer drugs. Not limited to the Pharmacy List (Appendix A).
- c) **Emergency:** Prescribe, order and administer drugs in conjunction with a medical consultation during or following a clinical event.

Knowledge and Skills

Registered Midwives use their knowledge, skills and professional judgment to assess clients to determine the need for pharmaceutical therapy, and to prescribe appropriate medications in accordance with current evidence, principles of safe medication practice and informed client choice.

Competencies

Registered Midwives are responsible for maintaining competence and currency in pharmacotherapy and safe medication practice. Registered Midwives are responsible to prescribe, order and administer drugs within the limits of their training and experience and to consult with other health professionals as needed.

Prescriptions

Prescriptions prepared and communicated by Registered Midwives shall include the information required by provincial and federal regulations, and conform to recognized standards as identified in the literature and adopted by recognized bodies such as the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities.

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Documentation and Drug Reconciliation

Registered Midwives document in the client record, in a timely and accurate manner, all medications prescribed, ordered, dispensed and/or administered.

Registered Midwives comply with provincial and federal regulations, and Regional Health Authority policies and procedures pertaining to reconciling medications, writing medication orders, dispensing and administering medications, reporting medication errors, and securing and disposing of medications, including controlled substances.

Safe Storage of Medications

Registered Midwives are responsible for ensuring public protection through safe storage and handling of medications. The CMNL requires Registered Midwives to follow the recommendations for storage and handling issued by the manufacturer. Unused and expired medication/vaccines/blood products should be disposed of as per guidelines established by the Regional Health Authority, Public Health and the Blood Bank.

Registered Midwives are responsible for controlling unauthorized public access by storing drugs and substances in discreet, locked areas. Controlled drugs and substances will only be used in a hospital setting, thus decreasing the likelihood of unauthorized public access.

Controlled Drugs and Substances

Registered Midwives maintain records as required by federal regulations related to their prescribing or use of controlled substances, and shall make these available when required. Registered Midwives complete an online course, such as *Opioids and Benzodiazepines: Safe Prescribing for Midwives* <https://ubccpd.ca/course/safe-prescribing-midwives> and/or any other requirements set by CMNL and NLCHP.

Prescription Monitoring Program

Under the *Prescription Monitoring Act* Registered Midwives are required to check their client's medication profile using the provincial electronic health record, now called HEALTHe NL, before prescribing and dispensing a monitored drug.

References

Canada-Controlled Substances and Act and Narcotic Control Regulations
 Canada-Controlled Substances Act New Classes of Practitioners Regulations
 National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities
 Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Monitoring Program
 Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Monitoring Act
 Newfoundland and Labrador Health Professions Act
 Newfoundland and Labrador Midwives Regulations

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Appendix A: Pharmacy List for Registered Midwives in Newfoundland and Labrador

Substance or Drug	Indications	Route	Independent, Consult or Emergency	Restriction
Acetaminophen with Codeine	Pain, postpartum or post-operative – moderate/severe	oral	Independent	
	Pain, postpartum or post-operative – moderate/severe	Oral	Independent	
Acyclovir	Suppression of Genital Herpes Simplex Virus Treatment of Genital Herpes Simplex Virus	Oral	Independent	
Amoxicillin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial Infections	Oral	Independent	
Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid	Bacterial Infections	Oral	Independent	
Ampicillin and its salts and derivate	Bacterial Infections	Intravenous	Consult	
Azithromycin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Azithromycin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Intravenous	Consult	
Bacillus Calmette-guerin vaccine	Communicable Disease Prevention	Intradermal	Independent	Must complete the NL Self-Directed Learning Module on Immunizations.
Betamethasone	Dermatitis	Topical	Independent	
Betamethasone	Preterm Labour	Intramuscular	Consult	
Blood products	Hypovolemia and shock	Intravenous	Consult	
Calcium gluconate	Magnesium sulfate toxicity	Intravenous	Emergency	

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Substance or Drug	Indications	Route	Independent, Consult or Emergency	Restriction
Carboprost tromethamine	Prevention and treatment of postpartum hemorrhage	Intramuscular	Independent	
Cephalosporin C and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Cephalosporin C and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial Infections	Intramuscular Intravenous	Consult	
Cervical Caps	Contraception	Per vagina	Independent	
Ciprofloxacin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Ciprofloxacin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Intravenous	Consult	
Clindamycin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Clindamycin and its salts and derivatives	Group B Streptococcus Prophylaxis	Intravenous	Independent	
Cloxacillin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Cloxacillin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Intravenous	Consult	
Crystalloid intravenous fluids	Dehydration and hypovolemia	Intravenous	Independent	
Crystalloid intravenous fluids	Hypovolemic shock	Intravenous	Emergency	
Dexamethasone	Preterm labour	Intramuscular	Consult	
Dextrose in concentrated solution	Hydration Hypoglycemia	Intravenous	Consult	
Diaphragms	Contraception	Per vagina	Independent	
Diclofenac	Pain	Oral or per rectum	Independent	

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Substance or Drug	Indications	Route	Independent, Consult or Emergency	Restriction
Dimehydrinate	Nausea/vomiting	Oral Intramuscular Intravenous	Independent	
Dinoprostone	Induction of Labour	Vaginal	Consult	
Diphenhydramine	Allergic reaction	Intramuscular	Emergency	
Diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis vaccination	Communicable Disease Prevention	Intramuscular	Independent	Must complete the NL Self-Directed Learning Module on Immunizations.
Domperidone	Breast milk supply, insufficient	Oral	Independent	
Doxycycline and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Doxycycline and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Intravenous	Consult	
Doxylamine – pyridoxine	Nausea/Vomiting	Oral	Independent	
Epinephrine and its salts	Anaphylaxis Neonatal Resuscitation	Intramuscular Intravenous Endotracheal	Emergency	
Ergot alkaloids and their salts	Postpartum hemorrhage, prevention and treatment of	Intramuscular Intravenous	Independent	
Erythromycin and its salts and derivatives	Ophthalmic neonatorum prophylaxis	Topical – Ophthalmic	Independent	
Erythromycin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Erythromycin and its salts and derivatives	Group B Strep Prophylaxis	Intravenous	Independent	
Erythromycin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Intravenous	Consult	

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Substance or Drug	Indications	Route	Independent, Consult or Emergency	Restriction
Fentanyl citrate	Pain, intrapartum	Intravenous		Administer in hospital / birthing unit only. Must complete an online course, such as, Opioids & Benzodiazepines: Safe Prescribing for Midwives.
Fluconazole	Fungal infections	Oral	Independent	
Flumazenil	Benzodiazepine toxicity	Intravenous	Emergency	
Folic acid	Vitamin and mineral deficiency, prevention and treatment of	Oral	Independent	
Hepatitis B immune globulin	Communicable Disease Prevention	Intramuscular	Consult	
Hepatitis B vaccine	Communicable Disease Prevention	Intramuscular	Independent	Must complete the NL Self-Directed Learning Module on Immunizations.
Hormonal contraceptives	Contraception	Oral Intramuscular Per vagina Topical Transdermal	Independent	
Hydralazine and its salts	Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy	Intravenous	Consult	
Hydrocortisone	Skin rashes Inflammatory conditions Hemorrhoids	Topical	Independent	

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Substance or Drug	Indications	Route	Independent, Consult or Emergency	Restriction
Hydromorphone	Pain, postpartum or post operative –moderate/severe	Oral Intravenous Per rectum	Independent	Administer in hospital/ birthing unit only. Must complete an online course, such as, Opioids & Benzodiazepines: Safe Prescribing for Midwives.
Ibuprofen and its salts	Pain Inflammation	Oral	Independent	
Indomethacin	Preterm labour	Per rectum	Consult	
Influenza vaccine	Communicable Disease Prevention	Intramuscular	Independent	Must complete the NL Self-Directed Learning Module on Immunizations.
Intrauterine devices/system (IUD)	Contraception	Intra-uterine	Independent	Must have documentation of training prior to performing IUD insertion.
Iron and its salts	Anemia, iron deficiency	Oral	Independent	
Iron and its salts	Anemia, iron deficiency	Intramuscular Intravenous	Consult	
Ketorolac	Pain	Oral Intravenous Intramuscular	Independent	
Labetalol	Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy	Oral Intravenous	Consult	

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Lidocaine hydrochloride, with or without epinephrine up to 2%	Local anaesthesia for perineal repair	Intramuscular Intradermal Subcutaneous	Independent	
Lorazepam	Prodromal labour	Sublingual	Independent	Administer in hospital / birthing unit only. Must complete an online course, such as, Opioids & Benzodiazepines: Safe Prescribing for Midwives.
Magnesium sulfate	Preterm labour Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy	Intravenous	Consult	
Magnesium sulfate	Eclampsia	Intravenous	Emergency	
Mefenamic acid and its salts	Pain	Oral	Independent	
Metoclopramide	Nausea/vomiting	Oral Intravenous	Consult	
Metronidazole	Bacterial Infections	Oral	Independent	
Metronidazole	Bacterial Infections	Intravenous	Consult	
Misoprostol	Postpartum hemorrhage, prevention and treatment of	Oral Sublingual Per vagina Per rectum	Independent	
Misoprostol	Induction of labour Abortion, missed or incomplete	Oral Sublingual Per vagina Per rectum	Consult	

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Substance or Drug	Indications	Route	Independent, Consult or Emergency	Restriction
MMR vaccine	Communicable disease prevention	Subcutaneous	Independent	Must complete the NL Self-Directed Learning Module on Immunizations.
Morphine citrate	Pain- intrapartum	Intramuscular Intravenous	Independent	Administer in hospital/ birthing unit only. Must complete an online course, such as, Opioids & Benzodiazepines: Safe Prescribing for Midwives.
Mupirocin	Bacterial infections	Topical	Independent	
Naloxone and its salts	Opioid toxicity	Intramuscular Intravenous	Emergency	
Naproxen and its salts	Pain	Oral	Independent	
Nifedipine	Preterm labour Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy	Oral	Consult	
Nitrofurantoin and its salts	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Nitroglycerin	Uterine hypertonus	Intravenous	Emergency	
Nitrous oxide	Pain-intrapartum	Inhalation	Independent	
Nystatin and its salts and derivatives	Fungal infections	Oral Topical	Independent	
Ondansetron	Nausea/vomiting	Oral Sublingual	Consult	
Oseltamivir	Influenza, prophylaxis and treatment of	Oral	Consult	

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Substance or Drug	Indications	Route	Independent, Consult or Emergency	Restriction
Oxazepam	Prodromal labour	Oral	Independent	Administer in hospital / birthing unit only. Must complete an online course, such as, Opioids & Benzodiazepines: Safe Prescribing for Midwives.
Oxygen	Hypoxemia, suspected or diagnosed	Inhalation	Independent	
Oxytocin	Postpartum hemorrhage, prevention and treatment of	Intramuscular Intravenous	Independent	
Oxytocin	Augmentation and induction of labour	Intravenous	Consult	
Penicillin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infection	Oral	Independent	
Penicillin and its salts and derivatives	Group B Streptococcus disease, prevention of	Intravenous	Independent	
Penicillin and its salts and derivatives	Bacterial infection	Intramuscular Intravenous	Consult	
Prenatal vitamins	Vitamin and mineral deficiency, prevention and treatment of	Oral	Independent	
Promethazine	Nausea/vomiting	Oral Intramuscular Intravenous	Consult	
Prostaglandin	Induction of labour	Vaginal Cervical	Consult	

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Substance or Drug	Indications	Route	Independent, Consult or Emergency	Restriction
Rho (D) immune globulin	Rh alloimmunization, prevention of	Intramuscular	Independent	
Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim	Bacterial infections	Oral Intravenous	Independent	
Sulphonamides and their salts and derivatives	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Support hose	Varicose veins, prevention and management of	N/A	Independent	
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine	Communicable disease prevention	Intramuscular	Independent	Must complete the NL Self-Directed Learning Module on Immunizations.
Tranexamic acid	Postpartum hemorrhage, prevention and treatment of	Intravenous	Independent	
Trimethoprim and its salts	Bacterial infections	Oral	Independent	
Valacyclovir	Herpes Simplex Virus, Genital, suppression of	Oral	Independent	
Valacyclovir	Herpes Simplex Virus, treatment of	Oral Topical	Consult	
Vancomycin	Group B Streptococcus, prevention of	Intravenous	Consult	For administration in hospital / birthing unit only.
Varicella vaccine	Communicable disease prevention	Subcutaneous	Independent	Must complete the NL Self-Directed Learning Module on Immunizations.
Varicella Zoster immune globulin	Communicable disease prevention	Intramuscular	Consult	

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Substance or Drug	Indications	Route	Independent, Consult or Emergency	Restriction
Vasopressin	Postpartum hemorrhage unresponsive to therapy	Intravenous	Emergency	
Vitamin K	Vitamin K deficiency bleeding, prevention of	Oral Intramuscular	Independent	