Prescription Writing

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Professional Practice Advisor
Ontario College of Pharmacists

Introduction
- Pharmacy Manager & Community Pharmacist (Markham and Stouffville) for Shoppers Drug Mart
- Active since 1997 in organizing Continuing Education Events for Pharmacists
- Active in pharmacy organizations (OPA, OCP, PEBC) throughout my career
- Professional Practice Advisor since August

Objectives
- Understand the legislation governing prescriptions
- Learn the basics of writing a prescription
- Become familiar with references pertaining to prescription medications
Drug & Pharmacy Regulation Act (DPRA)

- Provincial legislation
- Governs pharmacies, sale of “drugs”
- National Drug Schedules and conditions of sale (NAPRA)
- Works in harmony with other legislation
- Definitions provided

“Drug” means any substance or preparation containing any substance
- (a) manufactured, sold or represented for use in
  - (i) the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of a
disease, disorder, abnormal physical or mental state or the 
symptoms thereof, in humans, animals, or fowl, or
  - (ii) restoring, correcting or modifying functions in humans, 
animals, or fowl
- (b) referred to in Schedule I, II, or III (NAPRA)
- (c) Listed in a publication named by the regulations, or
- (d) Named in the regulations

Prescriber

- “Prescriber” means a person who is authorized under the laws of a province or territory of 
Canada to give a prescription within the scope of his or her practice of a health discipline

Prescription

- An order for a specific individual (patient)
- Ordered by an appropriate “prescriber”, after a diagnosis is made
- May be for a treatment, device, or medication (within the prescriber’s scope of practice)
- May be verbal or written (faxed)
  - If verbal, should be from prescriber, not staff member
- Written prescriptions must include name, signature, licence number of the prescriber and the date authorized
Prescription

- Faxed prescriptions must come directly from the prescriber
- At this time, prescriptions cannot be sent to a pharmacy via e-mail
- The prescriber cannot “direct” a patient to a particular pharmacy – patient must determine where it will be filled

Prescriptions

- “Signature”
  - More than a mark or initials
  - Not easily reproducible
  - Distinctive/Unique
  - Original (not a rubber stamp)
  - Digital/Electronic signatures – NO jpeg images allowed, some digital pens/tablets acceptable

Prescriptions

- Prescribers can only prescribe within their scope of practice:
  - To be determined by your College according to the MOHLTC guidelines
  - List of drugs/class of drugs is specified in Schedule 1 of the Designated Drugs Regulation (Ontario Regulation 112/11) under the Optometry Act.
  - Pharmacists may contact the prescriber to determine the appropriateness of the prescription or clarify any ambiguities
  - Not up to pharmacist to verify authorization to prescribe
  - Practice within scope

Prescription Writing

- Guess the prescription

Answer: Prednisone 50mg, od x 7 days
Prescription Writing

• Guess the prescription

Answer: 20 Voltaren SR 75mg BID

Prescription Writing

• Prescription writing tips:
  – Identify the patient – avoids mistaken identity, errors
    • full name
    • Address
    • date of birth/age
  – Identify the drug to be dispensed
    • Name
    • Strength
    • Quantity
    • type of drops – (eye not ear)
  – Give clear instruction on how the drug should be
    administered – avoid using terms like “as directed”

Prescription Writing

• Prescription writing tips:
  – If writing the prescription by hand, write clearly
  – Identify the prescriber (full name, address, phone number, license number)
  – Avoid use of confusing abbreviations
    • For example – OD could be interpreted as right eye or once daily or optometrist
  – Can write for more than one drug on the prescription pad
  – To prevent patients from improperly filling a prescription more than once, mark any paper copy printed in addition to the fax transmitted prescription as a copy

Prescription Writing

James Glass, O.D.
License: 82535
375 University Ave W, Windsor, ON, N9A 4B9
Phone: (519) 555-1515
Date: April 5, 2011

Name: Jacque Noseé
Address: 398 Miopic Drive, Windsor
Tobramycin opti
S: i gtt OU qid
M: 7 days
Refills: 0

James Glass
Prescription Writing

- Avoid the use of pre-printed prescription that list drugs in vertical columns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acular 5ml Opth gtt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atropine 1% 5ml gtt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciloxan 5ml Opth gtt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gentamycin 5ml gtt oint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocuflon 5ml Opth gtt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pred Forte 5% Opth gtt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobradex 5ml Opth gtt oint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobrex 5ml gtt oint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1gtt 2gts ¼&quot; strip OD OS OU od bid tid qid qhs q____h</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prescription Writing

- What happens after the prescription is written?
  - Pharmacist will evaluate it taking into account your scope of practice, patient medical history, drug interactions, side effects, drug allergies
  - Pharmacist may call to clarify information such as medication name & strength, instructions, quantities, potential drug interactions and allergies, etc.

Prescription Writing

- It is appropriate to write prescriptions for medications you wish to use in the office
  - Eg. Atropine

Dr. I. C. Yu
123 Main St
Anywere, ON
Name: Dr. I. C. Yu
Date: April 5, 2011

Atropine 1%
For office use
Mits: 1 bottle

Dr. I. C. Yu
Prescription Writing

DPRA Section 118 (3)

- Nothing in this Act prevents any person from selling, to a member of the College of Chiropodists of Ontario, the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario, the College of Midwives of Ontario or the College of Optometrists of Ontario, a drug that the member may use in the course of engaging in the practice of his or her profession. 2009, c. 26, s. 8 (3).

ODB Formulary

- List of drugs covered under the Ontario Drug Benefit – also what many third parties follow
- Covers patients on Social Assistance, Ontario Works, Seniors (over 65), Trillium
- Most medications prescribed by optometrists are covered under general benefit
  - Some covered under Limited Use Program

ODB Formulary

DORZOLAMIDE HCL & TIMOLOL MALEATE
2% & 0.5% Oph Sol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason For Use Code</th>
<th>Clinical Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>As second-line therapy for patients who do not have an adequate intraocular pressure lowering response to monotherapy with ophthalmic beta-blocking agents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LU Authorization Period: Indefinite.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason For Use Code</th>
<th>Clinical Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>393</td>
<td>For use as initial therapy in an urgent situation (e.g. patients with a high baseline intraocular pressure) where monotherapy is unlikely to be effective.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LU Authorization Period: Indefinite.

What can I prescribe?

- Prescribe as long as in your scope/training
- Glaucoma meds
- Anti-infective agents
  - Anti-bacterial
  - Anti-fungal
  - Anti-viral
- Anti-inflammatory
- Anti-allergic
Resources

- **ODB Formulary**
  - [www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/odbf_eformulary.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/odbf_eformulary.html)

- **CPS – Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties**

- **Therapeutics text**
  - Therapeutic Choices
  - Applied Therapeutics: The Clinical Uses of Drugs
  - Pharmacotherapy: A Pathophysiologic Approach
  - Textbook of Therapeutics

Resources

- **Drug Information Centre**
- **Online references**
  - e-CPS, e-Therapeutics
  - Micromedex (Martindale’s, Drug Dex)
  - Patient Connect DDI
  - OCP website – [www.ocpinfo.com](http://www.ocpinfo.com)
  - NAPRA website – [www.napra.com](http://www.napra.com)
  - College of Optometrists of Ontario - [http://www.collegeoptom.on.ca/](http://www.collegeoptom.on.ca/)
  - Pharmacists

Questions