



College of Pharmacists
of British Columbia

Nurse prescriptions for opioid use disorder – note to B.C. pharmacists

Updated on: December 12, 2023

Pharmacists are expected to dispense prescriptions for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment written by certified registered nurses (RNs) and registered psychiatric nurses (RPNs).

RNs and RPNs can prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone, methadone, slow-release oral morphine (Kadian®), and certain Schedule I or II drugs for OUD.

As of December 1, 2023, nurses must be certified through the BC College of Nurses and Midwives. Previously, they prescribed OUD treatment under a Provincial Health Officer order.

When dispensing, pharmacists must verify that the nurse is identified as a prescriber in PharmaNet. The ID reference code for prescribing nurses will be Y9 or R9. The best way to confirm is to search for the practitioner in PharmaNet by first and last name, as this will show multiple records if they exist. Select the most recent record only.

If searching by ID reference code and practitioner ID, search using both the prescribing and non-prescribing codes and, if multiple records are found, select the most current only.

	Prescribing ID reference code	Non-prescribing ID reference code (do not fill)
RNs	R9	RX
RPNs	Y9	YX

Note: You may see both ID reference codes for one nurse. Do not fill if the prescribing reference code is not the most current record.

If you have any questions, please call the PharmaNet Help Desk at 604-682-7120 (Lower Mainland) or 1-800-554-0225 (rest of B.C.).