

fact sheet

Prescribing and Distributing Guidelines for Nurse Practitioners

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are registered nurses (RNs) whose practice is focused on providing services to manage the health needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities. As part of their practice, NPs have the authority to prescribe Schedule 1 drugs. The AARN informs the Alberta College of Pharmacists of the names of NPs who have been registered on the AARN Extended Practice roster.

Prescribing guidelines include:

- utilization of both non-pharmacological and pharmacological approaches to treatment
- selection of appropriate drug therapy
- drug therapy based on best practices, clinical guidelines, and legislation
- accessing, utilizing, and contributing to a client's complete drug profile.

NPs have responsibilities for dispensing of medications when a pharmacist is not available in rural, remote communities. Distributing guidelines include:

- appropriate storage, distribution, and disposal of medications
- accurate preparation of prescriptions
- accurate recording of the prescription, including systematic filing
- initiation of client education
- monitoring of drug therapy
- accurate labeling of the prescription, including special circumstances or instructions.

>> A complete listing of Prescribing and Distributing Guidelines for NPs is available on the AARN web site under Publications at www.nurses.ab.ca.