



0135-04-1001 - Guideline regarding fraudulent prescriptions

This guideline provides best practice information on handling suspected or confirmed fraudulent/forged prescriptions.

Standard 6.6: Determining the authenticity of a prescription

Before Dispensing a prescription, a pharmacist or a rural permit holder must determine the authenticity of the prescription by taking reasonable steps to:

- a. Identify the prescriber;
- b. Determine whether the prescriber is legally authorized to prescribe the drug for which the prescription has been given; and
- c. Assess whether the prescription has been altered, forged, or stolen.

Guideline for handling suspected fraudulent prescriptions

- a. Contact the prescriber. This will allow the pharmacist to determine if the prescription is a forgery. If the pharmacist is not able to confirm the prescriber, the pharmacist remains responsible for determining the authenticity of the prescription as noted above. If authenticity is not verified and forgery suspected, a pharmacist should mark a prescription as “refused to fill” and retain a copy.
- b. If the prescription is determined to be a forgery the following steps are suggested as best practices:
 - i. Keep the prescription, if possible. If the patient insists on keeping the original, only provide it after having marked it as “refused to fill” and having made a copy.
 - ii. Document the refused prescription where necessary.
 - iii. Contact the RCMP and provide them with the prescription if requested. You are required to notify the RCMP if the forgery is related to a controlled substance.
 - o If available, retain any relevant video footage in order to assist the RCMP in any potential investigations
 - iv. Endeavour to contact other local pharmacists/pharmacies to alert them to the forgery
 - v. If the forgery pertains to a controlled substance, notify the Office of Controlled Substances via the loss or theft reporting mechanism. Further information and a link can be found [here](#).

This guideline will stay in effect unless otherwise notified by the Registrar for Pharmacists