

# STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

## THERAPEUTIC PRESCRIPTIONS

<b>Name:</b>	Therapeutic Prescriptions
<b>Date Approved:</b>	03/15/2019
<b>Date Updated:</b>	
<b>Number:</b>	SP-C-16
<b>Type:</b>	Clinical Standards (C)
<b>Reference:</b>	Saskatchewan Pharmacy Prescribing Regulations <a href="http://medsask.usask.ca/professional/guidelines/index.php">http://medsask.usask.ca/professional/guidelines/index.php</a> <a href="http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/REF_Prescription_%20Regulations_Summary_20170127.pdf">http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/REF_Prescription_%20Regulations_Summary_20170127.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/Pg-1R2.pdf">http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/Pg-1R2.pdf</a>

### Prescriptions (Rx) for Ocular Therapeutics in the Treatment of Eye Disease

Prescriptions are an important aspect of therapeutic transactions between doctors and patients. The importance of the prescription and the need for complete understanding and accuracy make it imperative that universal and standard language be employed. Present-day prescription practices lead, for the most part, to prescriptions containing a single ingredient, written in English, with doses given in metric system.

### Prescribing of Narcotics is Not Within our Members' Scope of Practice

Members have prescribing privileges for all oral and topical Schedule I Drugs of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists (as amended or replaced from time to time), for assessment, measurement, diagnosis, treatment, management, and correction of disorders and diseases of the human vision system, the eye and its associated structures.

Members may not prescribe narcotics. Narcotics fall under the Federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) and the Narcotic Control Regulations (NCR). Optometrists are not included within the approved specific practitioners to prescribe narcotics.

### A prescription consists of:

1. Prescriber information: Name (with your optometry degree and profession), address, telephone number, registration/license number and original signature of the prescriber
2. Patient Information
3. Date prescribed
4. Superscription – The symbol "RX"
5. Inscription – Drug name, concentration/dosage units, and formulation (e.g. solution, ointment, tablet)
6. Subscription – Director for the pharmacist: amount to be dispensed
7. Signatura – Directions for patient use. This is commonly written using abbreviations in both English and Latin. Any Latin abbreviations are translated by the pharmacist for the

patient. Alternatively, directions can be written in plain English without abbreviations to decrease the potential for misinterpretation

#### 8. Special Instructions:

- Labelling – instructs the pharmacist to label the container with the medication name and strength
- Refills – indicates the number of refills permitted
- Brand Only – this indicates that use of a specific brand is required and that a generic substitution is not permitted

### Abbreviations

**q** – every

**x** – times

**h** – hour

**q1hr** – every hour

**q2hr** – every 2 hours

**q3hr** – every 3 hours

**bid** – twice a day

**tid** – 3 times a day

**qid** – 4 times a day

**qd** – every day or once a day

**qod** – every other day

**qam** – every morning

**qhs** – at bedtime

**stat** – immediately

**ac** – before meals

**po** – by mouth

**prn** – as needed

**c** – with

**s** – without

**gtt(s)** – drop(s)

**caps** – capsule

**tab** – tablet

**ung** – ointment

**sol** – solution

**susp** – suspension

**ATC** – around the clock

**sig** – directions, write or label

**NTE** – not to exceed (this is important when prescribing for Viroptic, where “NTE gx/d” should be on every label)

### The Difference Between an Ophthalmic Solution and an Ophthalmic Suspension

**Solutions** are homogeneous mixtures with particle sizes at the molecular or ion level. The particles have dimensions between 0.1 to 2 nanometers. Typically, solutions are transparent, do not separate, and do not need to be shaken prior to use.

**Suspensions** are homogeneous mixtures with particles that have diameters greater than 1000 nanometers (0.000001m). The size of the particles is great enough that they are visible to the naked eye. Suspensions are “murky” or “opaque”, separate on standing, and **MUST** be shaken prior to use each time the medication is used.

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For: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**R<sub>x</sub>**

Besifloxacin 0.6% ophthalmic suspension  
Dispense 5 mL bottle  
Sig: 1 gtt tid OD  
X 7 days

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

Do not repeat     No substitution     Please label

Repeat \_\_\_\_\_ times