

October 2003

SECTION 56 CLASS EXEMPTION FOR PHARMACISTS

Pursuant to section 56 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA), a pharmacist is exempt for medical purposes, from subparagraphs 51(1)(b)(i) and 51(1)(b)(ii) of the *Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations* (hereafter referred to as the Targeted Substances Regulations) if the transaction is made pursuant to a prescription dated and signed by a podiatrist granted an exemption under section 56 of the CDSA or provided verbally to the pharmacist by a podiatrist granted an exemption under section 56 of the CDSA.

In respect of this exemption,

Benzodiazepines means substances listed under Item 18, Schedule IV, of the CDSA and listed under Item 1, Part 1, Schedule 1 of Targeted Substances Regulations.

Podiatrist means a person who is registered and entitled under the laws of a province to practice in that province the profession of podiatry and to prescribe or administer benzodiazepines.

This exemption gives authority for a pharmacist to sell, provide, send, deliver or transport a benzodiazepine to or for an individual in accordance with section 51 of Targeted Substances Regulations, subject to the terms and conditions of this exemption.

This exemption is only applicable if the following conditions are met:

- (1) the pharmacist must satisfy all of the conditions and requirements of the Targeted Substances Regulations that are applicable to the prescription filled in accordance with paragraph 51(1)(b) including: paragraphs 51(1)(a) and (b); paragraph 51(1)(d) and sections 52, 53, and 54. The name of the podiatrist who issued the prescription will replace the name of the practitioner who issued the prescription.

This exemption will remain in effect until revoked.

Original signed by Carole Bouchard

Director, Office of Controlled Substances, DSCS/HECS, for and on behalf of the Minister of Health