



The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

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TO: **ALERT TO ALL MANITOBA PHARMACISTS**

In the last 72 hours, there have been four armed robberies of community pharmacies reported by the media. The reports indicate the crimes are being committed by one individual described as a tall, slim, caucasian male in his mid-twenties. The drug being demanded in the robberies is OxyContin®. The Winnipeg Police Service is working to apprehend this individual.

It is important for pharmacies to decrease the risk of being a victim by enhancing security measures, decreasing the stock of OxyContin® (to a level of what is only necessary) and posting a sign at the pharmacy entrance and at the dispensary describing the stock reduction or elimination policy. In addition, the installation of surveillance cameras and using security personnel are also key preventative measures.

Should your practice site be subject to an armed robbery, the safety of staff and others in the pharmacy is the primary objective.

For more prevention and reaction to armed robbery information, please refer to the MPhA home page of the NAPRA website at www.napra.org.

Ronald Guse, Registrar
The Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

All loss or theft of drugs must be documented and reported to the:

- (1) Pharmacy's local police service
(in Winnipeg this would be the Winnipeg Police Service by phone at 204-986-6222);
- (2) Health Canada by fax at 613-957-0110, and
- (3) Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association by fax at 204-237-3468. Reporting forms are available through the Manitoba portion of the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities website (www.napra.ca), click on "Forms".