

Common Ailment Prescribing in Canada

Common, or minor ailments refers to conditions that can initially be managed with non-prescription therapy. All pharmacists across the country can assess common ailment symptoms and recommend self-care or over-the-counter treatments. Pharmacists in many provinces can also prescribe medications for certain minor ailments. Prescribing for minor ailments can improve patient care and increase quality of life, while also reducing the burden on the healthcare system.

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QU	NB	NS	PEI	NL	YU	NU	NT
Dermatological Conditions													
Acne vulgaris (mild)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓*	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓~	✗	✗
Calluses and corns	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Dermatitis (atopic, contact, irritant)	✗	✓	✓ ¹	✓	P	✓*	✓ ²	✓ ²	✓ ²	✓ ³	✓~ ⁴	✗	✗
Diaper Dermatitis, Candidal	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓~	✗	✗
Eczema (mild to moderate)	✗	✓	✗	✗	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Folliculitis	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Impetigo	✗	✓	✗	✗	P	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓~	✗	✗
Minor cuts	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Pediculosis (Head lice)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Psoriasis	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Onychomycosis (fungal nail infection)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Seborrheic dermatitis (dandruff)	✗	✓	✗	✓ ⁵	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Shingles Treatment	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓ ⁶	✗		✗	✗	✓~	✗	✗
Tinea skin infections (tinea corporis, tinea cruris, tinea pedis, tinea unguium)	✗	✓	✓ ⁷	✓ ⁸	✗	✓ ⁹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓~	✗	✗
Urticaria (mild; hives, bug bites, stings)	✗	✓	✓	✓ ¹⁰	P	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓~ ¹⁰	✗	✗
Warts (excl. facial and genital)	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

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Gastrointestinal Conditions													
Diarrhea	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Dyspepsia	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓~	✗	✗
Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)	✗	✓	✓	✗	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓~	✗	✗
Hemorrhoids	✗	✓	✓	✓ ¹¹	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓~	✗	✗
Traveler's diarrhea (preventative)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓ ¹²	✓	✗	✗	✗
Threadworm, pinworm, & ringworm	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓ ¹³	✓ ¹⁴	✓~ ¹⁵	✗	✗
Vomiting/Nausea	✗	✓	✗	✓ ¹⁶	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Reproductive & Genitourinary Conditions													
Chlamydia	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Dysmenorrhea	✗	✓	✓	✗	P	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓~	✗	✗
Emergency Contraception	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Erectile dysfunction	✗	✓	✓ ¹⁷	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓~	✗	✗
Gonorrhea	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓*	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
HIV, prophylaxis	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Prenatal Care (folic acid, vitamins)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Urinary Tract Infection (uncomplicated)	✗	✓	✓ ¹⁸	P	P	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓~	✗	✗
Vaginal Candidiasis (yeast infection)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓~	✗	✗
Respiratory Conditions													
Allergic Rhinitis	✗	✓	✓	✓	P	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓~	✗	✗
Asthma	✗	✓ ¹⁹	✗	✗	✗	✓ ¹⁹	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cough	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

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Travel Immunizations and Preventative Conditions													
Acute mountain sickness	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓ ²⁰	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
European tick-borne encephalitis	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓ ²¹	✗	✗	✗	✗
Japanese encephalitis	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓ ²⁰	✓ ²¹	✗	✗	✗	✗
Lyme disease (prophylaxis; following tick bite)	✗	✓	✗	✗	P	✓	✗	P	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Malaria	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓ ²⁰	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Typhoid	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓ ²¹	✗	✗	✗	✗
Yellow fever	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓ ²⁰	✓ ²¹	✗	✗	✗	✗
Other													
Cardiac valve carrier (preventative treatment before procedure)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Protective treatment for patients taking an anti-inflammatory medication and at risk for GI complications	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

- 1 Atopic only
- 2 Allergic contact dermatitis only
- 3 Atopic and contact dermatitis only
- 4 Atopic dermatitis only
- 5 Excluding pediatric
- 6 With a referral to a physician or nurse practitioner upon prescribing
- 7 Tinea corporis, tinea cruris, and tinea pedis only
- 8 Tinea pedis only
- 9 When previously diagnosed
- 10 Insect bites only
- 11 Unspecified, without complications
- 12 With special authorization
- 13 Threadworms and pinworms only
- 14 Pinworm only
- 15 Ringworm only
- 16 Only during pregnancy
- 17 18 years old and up
- 18 Women only
- 19 Emergency prescription and administration following an asthma attack
- 20 With additional pharmacist training
- 21 With special authorization

P Pending

* Previous medical diagnosis required.

+ Pharmacist with Additional Prescribing Authorization (APA) in Alberta may prescribe any Schedule 1 Drugs, not limited to this list.

~ Temporary during COVID-19 pandemic