

Forged Prescriptions

What is a prescription forgery?

Forging a prescription is defined as illegally acquiring pharmaceuticals for either personal use or for trafficking (illegitimate sale or distribution). Creating a prescription (on a blank prescription form or electronically), or altering a legitimate prescription, (e.g. by increasing the quantity of a medication or adding another medication to the prescription) are all examples of a forgery.

Prescription forgery and trafficking of Controlled Drugs are contraventions of the [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#) with serious legal penalties (particularly for trafficking).

What steps should be taken by a prescriber if a forged prescription has been dispensed?

Confirm the forgery:

1. Get a copy of the forged prescription(s) for TPP Alberta-monitored drugs from the pharmacy.
2. Determine as many details about the forgery as possible, for example:
 - Date & time of forgery presentation to/receipt by the pharmacy
 - Patient information
3. Identify any discrepancies from legitimate prescriptions under your name.
4. Document the forgery in your records.

Collaborate with the pharmacy that received and/or filled the forged prescription(s):

1. Share applicable details with the pharmacy staff so that they can identify possible future forgeries under your name.
2. Provide direction to the pharmacy staff on the steps you would like taken for suspected forgeries received under your name. For example, how best to contact you for verification.
3. Confirm who will complete notifications, as appropriate, to:
 - Law enforcement

- The Alberta College of Pharmacy (ACP)
- Health Canada

Notify TPP Alberta of the forgery:

Provide a copy of the forged prescription to TPP.Info@cpsa.ab.ca, including details gathered and shared with the pharmacy. TPP Alberta will complete appropriate documentation.

What steps should a pharmacist take when a forgery is suspected or confirmed?

1. Pharmacists should follow the guidance provided on the [ACP forgeries webpage](#).
2. Pharmacists should collaborate with the prescriber and/or other healthcare professionals.
3. All confirmed forgeries for TPP-monitored drugs should be reported to TPP Alberta.
4. If the forgery has been dispensed, notify Health Canada, local law enforcement and contact Netcare (Pharmaceutical Information Network) for dispense record corrections, as appropriate.

To what organizations should a forgery of a controlled drug and substance be reported?

Health Canada requires that all those working with controlled substances and precursor chemicals must take proper security measures. If a theft, loss or forgery of a controlled drug or substance occurs it must be reported to the local police and to the **Office of Controlled Substances**: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/loss-theft-controlled-substances-precursors.html>

In Alberta, forgeries for TPP Alberta-monitored drugs should be reported to **TPP Alberta**: TPP.Info@cpsa.ab.ca

Additionally, it is recommended that pharmacists notify the **Alberta College of Pharmacy**: <https://abpharmacy.ca/faq-category/forged-prescriptions>

Alberta Law Enforcement Agencies Contact Information:

Edmonton Police Service (EPS)
Non-Emergency Line 780-423-4567
<https://www.edmontonpolice.ca/ContactEPS/EPSComplaintLine>

Calgary Police Service (CPS)

403-266-1234

RCMP

Non-Emergency Lines:

Red Deer 403-406-2300

Grande Prairie 780-830-5701

Wood Buffalo 780-788-4040

Other detachments <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/detach/en/find/AB>

Alberta Health

Note: If a person suspects that someone is using a card that is not theirs or misusing their Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan card, they may call the confidential Alberta Health tips line at 1-866-278-5104.