



# College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

## *Professional Practice Standard: Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs<sup>1</sup>*

*To accompany CVBC Bylaws, Schedule D – Accreditation Standards*

Published December 2017, Amended March 1, 2019, Effective April 1, 2019, Amended January 28, 2022

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This College publication describes a mandatory standard of practice. The *Veterinarians Act* in section 52 provides that a failure to comply with a standard may be investigated.

### **Introduction**

Veterinarians are expected to implement strategies to mitigate the risk of loss, theft or diversion of controlled drugs which are part of the pharmaceutical inventory in a veterinary practice.

### **Definition**

**Controlled drug:** Any substance listed in Schedule I-V of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, such as narcotics, controlled drugs, and targeted substances (CVBC Bylaws, Schedule D – Accreditation Standards).

### **Minimum Requirements**

A veterinarian meets the Professional Practice Standards: Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs when he/she:

1. Follows an established protocol for the acquisition of controlled drugs that records all orders, purchases and receipts and matches the quantity received with the quantity recorded in the purchase order.
2. Maintains a Controlled Drug Log of all controlled drugs and any compounded products that contain controlled drugs.
3. Ensures that the Controlled Drug Log contains information about what drugs were used for which animals, the date that a controlled substance is dispensed or administered, the name and address of the client\*, the name, strength, and quantity of the controlled substance dispensed or administered, and the quantity of the controlled substance

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<sup>1</sup> Council approved the ‘Professional Practice Standard: Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs’ on September 9, 2017 following a recommendation from the Practice Facility Accreditation Committee (PFAC). The CVBC ‘Professional Practice Standard: Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs’ is available on the CVBC website ([www.cvbc.ca](http://www.cvbc.ca)), under Resources > Legislation, Standards & Policies.

remaining in the member's inventory after the controlled substance is dispensed or administered.

(\*client address could be substituted with a unique client identifier that allows for the client address to be readily accessed by practice facility staff and by the CVBC inspector)

4. Ensures audits are performed on a regular basis, as follows:
  - a) Minimum frequency of routine audits is every 2 weeks<sup>2</sup>.
  - b) Additional audits are necessary in the following situations:
    - When discrepancies caused by process losses are identified in facilities that compound drugs.
    - When shipments of controlled drugs appear to have been tampered with (e.g. seals are missing or altered, containers are damaged, or inaccurate counts are found during the reconciliation process).
    - When a break-in, robbery, fire, or other physical damage or loss has occurred at the facility.
5. Audits must be conducted by two staff who are specifically identified by the designated registrant to manage controlled drugs. An exemption will be made for single person facilities provided the CVBC is notified.
6. Ensures that all controlled drugs are stored securely at all times.
7. Restricts access to controlled drugs to veterinarians and qualified auxiliary staff.
8. Reports irreconcilable loss or theft of drugs to police immediately and to Health Canada within 10 days.
9. Destroys controlled drugs using a process that follows federal regulations and any environmental requirements set out by federal, provincial and/or municipal jurisdictions.

## **Guide to the Professional Practice Standard**

A separate *Guide to the Professional Practice Standard: Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs* has been developed by the College, and can be found on the CVBC website ([www.cvbc.ca](http://www.cvbc.ca)) under the Resources tab > Legislation, Standards & Policies.

## **Legislative Authority**

British Columbia *Veterinarians Act*, SBC 2010 c. 15

CVBC Bylaws, Schedule D – Accreditation Standards, Section 09 – Pharmacy Area, s. 78

SOR/2000-217, s. 1(1), 2, 6, 7, 58-62 (Benzodiazepine and Other Targeted Substances, *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, Canada)

C.R.C., c 870, Part G.01.001-002, G.04.001-002, G.05.001 (Food and Drug Regulations, *Food and Drugs Act*, Canada)

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<sup>2</sup> If a regularly-scheduled audit would fall on a day the practice facility is closed, the audit must be performed on the next business day

C.R.C., c 1041, s. 54, 63, 65(1-2) (Narcotic Control Regulations, *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, Canada)

### **Acknowledgement**

Adapted with permission from the College of Veterinarians of Ontario's "Professional Practice Standard: Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs".