



CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Interior Health would like to acknowledge that it operates and provides services on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dăkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations.

Interior Health recognizes that a diverse workplace includes all people, particularly those belonging to historically, systemically, and/or persistently marginalized groups, as well as individuals with protected characteristics under the B.C. Human Rights Code.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This policy directs the safe, secure, and accountable management of [Controlled Substances](#), protecting people from preventable harm, and advancing quality, safety, and responsible stewardship across Interior Health (IH).

1.2 Applicability

This policy applies to [Employees](#) across IH service areas.

1.3 Scope

This policy covers the requirements for [Controlled Substances](#) management.

This policy **does not** cover the requirements for [Controlled Substances](#) records management. See [AL0700 Records – Retention, Storage and Destruction of](#).

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 [Controlled Substances](#) are managed in a manner that promotes safety, security, and accountability.
- 2.2 Access to [Controlled Substances](#) are restricted to authorized [Employees](#) within their assigned roles and scope of practice.
- 2.3 Chain of custody controls are in place to support the traceability and accountability of [Controlled Substances](#) throughout their lifecycle.
- 2.4 Inventory oversight supports the safe, accurate and accountable management of [Controlled Substances](#).
- 2.5 [Diversion](#) prevention is integrated throughout the management of [Controlled Substances](#).
- 2.6 [Controlled Substances](#) are administered in accordance with the controls on practice in British Columbia to support safe and appropriate [Client](#) care.
- 2.7 Disposal of [Controlled Substances](#) is carried out in a secure and accountable manner.
- 2.8 Accountability for [Controlled Substances](#) is supported through monitoring, auditing, and continuous quality improvement.

Policy Sponsor and Steward assignment for this policy is listed on the regional policy library page			1 of 4
Date Approved: May 2016	Last Revised: October 2026	Last Reviewed: October 2026	
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- 2.9** Standards and procedures are in place and accessible within IH to guide [Controlled Substance](#) management activities.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Chief Operating Officer, Clinical Operations

- Accountable for [Controlled Substances](#) management activities carried out in IH facilities within their area(s) of responsibility.

Program Director, Pharmacy Services

- Approve systems, standards and procedures that support secure storage, inventory control, [Diversion](#) prevention, destruction, and regulatory compliance.

Director, Pharmacy

- Accountable for [Controlled Substances](#) management activities carried out in pharmacies within their area(s) of responsibility.
- Develop, implement, and maintain standards and procedures for [Controlled Substances](#) management.
- Oversee monitoring, auditing, and continuous quality improvement.

Manager level positions and higher, Clinical Operations

- Accountable for [Controlled Substances](#) management within their unit(s)/facility.
- Manage access to systems with [Controlled Substances](#) and oversee inventory control and [Diversion](#) prevention within their area(s) of responsibility.
- Oversee direct reports to follow approved standards and procedures and to successfully complete education.
- Follow up reports of [Diversion](#), participate in investigations, and escalate to the Director, Pharmacy as appropriate.

Director level positions and higher, Medicine Portfolio

- Manage access to systems with [Controlled Substances](#) and oversee inventory control and [Diversion](#) prevention within their area(s) of responsibility.
- Oversee [Employees](#) within their area(s) of responsibility to follow approved standards and procedures and to successfully complete education.
- Follow up reports of [Diversion](#), participate in investigations, and escalate to the Director, Pharmacy as appropriate.

Policy Sponsor and Steward assignment for this policy is listed on the regional policy library page		2 of 4
Date Approved: May 2016	Last Revised: October 2026	Last Reviewed: October 2026
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Employees

- Conduct [Controlled Substance](#) management activities in compliance with regulatory requirements in and in line with responsibilities in the [Employee's](#) job description.
- Follow approved [standards and procedures](#).
- Successfully complete education as appropriate.
- Report any suspected occurrence(s) of [Diversion](#) to their reporting manager.

4.0 COMPLIANCE

Incidents of non-compliance to this policy are investigated to identify barriers and to facilitate compliance. Evidence of disregard of policy requirements is handled as a disciplinary matter, up to and including termination of employment, services, and/or privileges.

5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This policy is reviewed every 5 years and as needed by the Policy Steward.

6.0 INQUIRIES

The regional policy library page linked in the footer lists the policy steward that oversees each policy. If you have questions regarding the policy content, reach out to the appropriate policy steward or email IHPharmacyPolicy@interiorhealth.ca.

All other inquiries can be directed to the policy office: IHPolicy@interiorhealth.ca

7.0 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Controlled Substances Clinical Care Resources Toolkit](#)

8.0 REFERENCES

Acts and Bylaws. (2026). *College of Pharmacists of British Columbia*.
<https://www.bcpharmacists.org/acts-and-bylaws>

Government of Canada. (2026). *Controlled Substances Regulations*. Department of Justice. <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2025-242/FullText.html>

Government of Canada. (2026). *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. Department of Justice. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-38.8/>

9.0 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Client	A person who is receiving, has received, or has requested health care. Term is synonymous with patient and resident.

Policy Sponsor and Steward assignment for this policy is listed on the regional policy library page			3 of 4
Date Approved: May 2016	Last Revised: October 2026	Last Reviewed: October 2026	
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Controlled Substance	Any drug, substance, or precursor regulated under the Canada Controlled Drugs and Substances Act that has the potential for misuse, abuse, dependence, diversion, impairment, or harm.
Diversion	The unauthorized redirection of a Controlled Substance from its medical or lawful channel for personal use, illegal sale, or alternative distribution. It encompasses all forms of unlawful removal, ranging from covert clinical manipulation to outright physical theft.
Employee	A person currently acting on behalf of Interior Health, inclusive of medical staff, volunteers, students, contractors and workers.

Policy Sponsor and Steward assignment for this policy is listed on the regional policy library page			4 of 4
Date Approved: May 2016	Last Revised: October 2026	Last Reviewed: October 2026	
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