

Minimum Comparable Pharmacy Service Requirements in Designated Supportive Living (DSL)

The purpose of this document is to clarify **comparable services**ⁱ as stated in the [Medication Management](#) (Continuing Care) Policy. The aim of establishing comparable services is to balance client choice and autonomy with adherence to legislation, policies, and safety.

If a client/family within DSL chooses a pharmacy other than the site's contracted/preferred pharmacy provider(s), the following minimum requirements shall be fulfilled by the client's alternate pharmacy prior to service enactment. If the alternate pharmacy is able to meet the requirements set out below, a collaborative approach between pharmacy, site, and client/family is expected to be supported.

Dispensing and Distribution

- Obtaining prescriptions for clients when notified of admission or transfer
- Packaging medications in a controlled dosage system, if required
- Labelling Schedule 2, 3, or unscheduled medications (over the counter, herbal) in accordance with Pharmacy Standards of Practice
- Adhering to additional labelling requirement such as:
 - Indication for use for PRN (as needed) medication
 - Specific time interval between doses (e.g., every 3 hours); avoiding ranges in timing interval wherever possible (e.g. every 4 to 6 hours)
 - Dose limits/maximums within a specific period of time for PRN medication orders, where clinically appropriate (e.g. acetaminophen 325-650 mg q6h PRN for pain, Maximum of 3000 mg in 24 hours from all sources)
 - Area(s) of application for topical medications
 - Alignment with site process to identify and label hazardous medications
- Providing:
 - Current and complete medication lists that include medications and natural health products obtained from other sources, whenever possible
 - Medication documentation record (e.g., Medication Administration or Assistance Record)
 - Equipment and supplies as necessary (e.g., safety engineered devices, sharps containers)
- Collaborating with the **healthcare team**ⁱⁱ to:
 - Establish processes to communicate prescriptions during admissions, transfers, and medication changes
 - Ensure continuity of medication orders/prescriptions (e.g., current orders and authorized refills for continuity of care)
 - Update medication records with medication changes
 - Accommodate new prescriptions, changes, and refills in a timeframe based on urgency and need
 - Coordinate medication delivery, including the provision of delivery/shipping reports
 - Develop a process for the safe disposal of medication



Clinical Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring consultations* with a pharmacist that are sufficient to meet client need • Partnering with the care team to support safe and appropriate medication use, including but not limited to completing medication reviews • Participating in client conferences* • Calculating, updating, and documenting creatinine clearances annually (or more frequently if clinically required), for each client under their care • Collaborating with the care team in preparation of influenza outbreaks and on provision of antiviral medication • Documenting in accordance with applicable organization policies and the Standards of Practice for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians <p>*Note: Clinical services may be provided by various methods, including in person, virtually and in writing. Pharmacy collaborates with the client/family and site to determine suitable method(s)</p>
Quality Assurance and Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in quality assurance activities, as it pertains to their clients, including but not limited to concerns resolution, documentation and review of medication errors (adverse events, close calls and hazards), and identification of trends and strategies to mitigate risks • Participating in quality improvement initiatives (e.g., antimicrobial stewardship, appropriate utilization of antipsychotics)

These minimum requirements are also recommended for Non-Designated Supportive Living settings, to align with the AHS Medication Management (Continuing Care) Policy.

ⁱ **Comparable services** refers to pharmacy services provided by a contracted/preferred pharmacy provider(s) or alternate pharmacy
ⁱⁱ **Healthcare team** may be inclusive of site staff, physician, clients and/or families based upon situation, policy, and process