Introduction

Veterinarians are authorized to prescribe and dispense controlled drugs. With that authority comes the responsibility to mitigate the risk of inappropriate or illegal access to controlled drugs. This responsibility includes the overall management of any controlled drugs used in a veterinary practice, including disposal.

Definition

For the purposes of this Professional Practice Standard, the term controlled drug means controlled substance.

Practice Expectations

A veterinarian meets the *Professional Practice Standard: 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 audits\(^1\) are performed on a regular basis.

4. Ensures that all controlled drugs are stored securely at all times.

5. Restricts access to controlled drugs to veterinarians and qualified auxiliary staff.

6. Reports unreconciled loss or theft of drugs to police immediately and to Health Canada within 10 days.

7. Obtains permission from Health Canada for the destruction of expired, damaged and/or unusable controlled drugs.

8. 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 Standard**

A separate *Guide to the Professional Practice Standard: Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs* has been developed by the College. See the Resources tab on the College website at [www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org).

**Legislative Authority**

RRO 1990, O. Reg 1093, Section 28 (*Veterinarians Act*)
SRO/2000-217, Section 1(1), 2, 6, 7, 522-67 (*Benzodiazepine and Other Targeted Substances Regulations, Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Canada*)
CRC, c 870, Part G.01.001-002, G.04.001-002, G.05.001 (*Food and Drug Regulations, Food and Drugs Act, Canada*)
CRC, c 1041, Sections 54, 63, 65(1-2) (*Narcotic Control Regulations, Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Canada*)

**Other References**

The following can be found on the College’s website at [www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org):

*Guide to the Professional Practice Standard: Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs*

*Professional Practice Standard: Medical Records*

*Guide to the Professional Practice Standard: Medical Records*

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\(^1\) Refer to the Guide to this Standard for the specific requirements related to audit requirements.
Resources
The following can be found on the College’s website at www.cvo.org:
- Sample Controlled Drug Log
- Sample Audit Forms
- Tips for Conducting Audits
- Health Canada, Correspondence to Veterinarians on Steps to Minimize the Loss and Theft of Controlled Substances within their Practices, as circulated in Update, College of Veterinarians of Ontario, December 2013

The following resource may be helpful:
- Health Canada, Loss or Theft Report Form for Controlled Substances and Precursors