

**COVID 19 Response - Temporary  
Options for Wet Signature Req't for Health Authority Prescribers<sup>1</sup> Working from Home**

**Issue:** Health Authority (HA) prescribers working from home need a timely means to prescribe

- a) regular drugs, and
- b) controlled substances without access to office fax machines.

**Requirement:** Health authority and community pharmacists need to be able to authenticate prescriptions.

**Must include in Rx:**

- **Prescriber current phone number and license number. (a & b)**
- **Controlled Rx folio number (b only)**
- **Always mail the duplicate prescription to pharmacy (b only)**

The options consider two scenarios:

1. HA prescribers submitting to community pharmacies. Options include phone, fax, and eFax with a digital (stylus or mouse) or electronic signature (.jif/stored).
2. HA prescribers submitting to HA pharmacies or wards where greater latitude will be given due to organizational relationships. Options include phone, email, fax, and eFax. Note: Call to advise wards of incoming fax.

Option	Notes
Phone (verbal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status quo</li> </ul>
Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HA only. Must use HA email.</li> <li>• Can be used to email prescriptions to wards (eg. acute care) or pharmacists, depending on workflow.</li> </ul>
Fax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status quo</li> </ul>
eFax (EMR users)	<p>Option requires three steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generate prescription (e.g. EMR)</li> <li>2. Add electronic (stored) or digitized signature (eg. stylus/mouse)</li> <li>3. efax the prescription file (usually in PDF format) attachment directly to a pharmacy fax machine.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>real-time</b> digital signature on the prescription created with a mouse or stylus is preferred. An electronic signature (single, stored image) may be accepted.</li> </ul>
eFax (non-EMR users)	<p>Option requires four steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generate prescription (e.g. prescription pad)</li> <li>2. Sign.</li> <li>3. Scan the prescription (eg. Turboscan)</li> <li>4. efax the prescription file (usually in PDF format) attachment directly to a pharmacy fax machine.</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> This document is intended for health authority prescribers. A separate document exists for community prescribers.

\*\*Given the current COVID-19 crisis, any future MOH or College audits will take circumstances into account.

**Sample eFax Solutions:**

<p>Cell Phone Scanner &amp; eFax  (non-EMR user)</p>	<p>Solution developed by Vancouver Coastal Health / PHSA to support PARIS users who do not have access to an EMR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TurboScan is a mobile app available for Apple and Android devices that turns you phone into a scanner, enabling prescribers to scan hard copy prescriptions with wet signatures. A free version is available.</li> <li>• Requires an eFax tool to transmit the image via email to the pharmacy fax machine.</li> <li>• VCH has purchased SRFax for this purpose and it is available for use via VCH email. No download is required.</li> <li>• Ensure that the license number (College ID) and <b>current phone number</b>, where the prescriber can be reached, are included.</li> </ul>
<p>EMR &amp; eFax  (EMR user)</p>	<p>Solution developed by Vancouver Coastal Health / PHSA to support EMR users:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use Intrahealth Profile to prescribe medication</li> <li>2. Instead of printing to a printer, Print to PDF</li> <li>3. Open the PDF in Adobe Reader</li> <li>4. Using the "Fill and Sign" feature in Adobe to mouse draw signature for or insert signature image into PDF file.</li> <li>5. Email PDF using SRFax to Pharmacy or to Front desk at the clinic who can then fax to Pharmacy</li> <li>6. Ensure that the license number (College ID) and <b>current phone number</b>, where the prescriber can be reached, are included.</li> <li>7. A <b>real-time</b> digital signature on the prescription created with a mouse or stylus is preferred. An electronic signature (single, stored image) may be accepted.</li> </ol>