

# Northern Health Pharmacy COVID-19 Update



April 14, 2020



## Patient's Own Medication (POM) Use to be Avoided:

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pharmacy will endeavor to provide all medication needs for patients, regardless of formulary status, to remove the need for use of Patient's Own Medications (POM). Usual applications for use of non-formulary or excluded medications will not be needed during this time.

During pharmacy hours, if the Pharmacy Department is not able to obtain the needed medication in a timeframe appropriate for patient care OR during evenings or weekends when the pharmacy department is closed, nursing staff are instructed to handle POM as follows:

- Clean the POM medication vials or containers with Oxivir or other acceptable cleaning product as advised by Infection Prevention & Control
- Store temporarily in a sealed ziploc baggie in patient's medication drawer to prevent cross-contamination with other medication products
- If not already done, notify pharmacy over phone during regular pharmacy hours to determine ongoing supply

Do not send any POM to pharmacy for identification in efforts to decrease transmission risk of COVID-19. A pharmacist, if available, will identify on the ward. If identification is not feasible on the ward, nursing is directed to contact pharmacy via phone to discuss options.

<b>April 14, 2020</b> For the information of nurses and pharmacists. PLEASE POST	Formulary changes	
	Drug discontinuation	
	Medication change	
	Best practice	✓
		For further information please contact your local pharmacy department.