



## **Bladder Infection (“UTI” or “Urinary Tract Infection”) Prescribing by Pharmacists**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Pharmacists are now able to prescribe antibiotics to treat bladder infections (“UTIs” or “Urinary Tract Infections”) to most healthy young women. Patients should talk to their pharmacist for complete information.

**1. Can any woman get an antibiotic prescription for a bladder infection from a pharmacist?**

After an initial diagnosis by a physician or nurse practitioner for a bladder infection in the past, a pharmacist will assess if it is appropriate and safe to prescribe antibiotics, or if a referral to a physician or nurse practitioner is required for treatment. Patients under the age of 16 seeking UTI treatment from a pharmacist will automatically be referred to a physician or nurse practitioner, regardless of past history.

**2. I am pregnant; can a pharmacist prescribe treatment for my bladder infection?**

No. Pregnant women must be referred to their physician or nurse practitioner for assessment and treatment for bladder infections.

**3. Can pharmacists prescribe bladder infection treatment to males?**

No. Male patients must be assessed and treated by a physician or nurse practitioner.

**4. I have a medical condition; can a pharmacist prescribe for my bladder infection?**

Maybe. Several conditions/situations exclude a pharmacist from prescribing an antibiotic for a bladder infection. These conditions require further evaluation by a physician or nurse practitioner for assessment and treatment, and include but are not limited to:

- Pregnancy
- Immunocompromised (e.g., receiving chemotherapy)
- Abnormal urinary tract structure or function
- Already taking a medication associated with an inflamed bladder
- Kidney impairment
- Having multiple bladder infections in the previous weeks/months
- First bladder infection

- No prior diagnosis of UTI by a physician or nurse practitioner
- And other situations as set out in the Guidelines for pharmacists to prescribe

**5. I have never gotten a prescription for a bladder infection before, but I think I might have a bladder infection. Can a pharmacist prescribe for me?**

No. Patients must have been previously diagnosed by a physician or nurse practitioner in the past for a bladder infection. Pharmacists must then assess the patient to see if they are a candidate for antibiotic treatment.

**6. Can all pharmacists prescribe for bladder infections?**

All Saskatchewan pharmacists working in community/retail pharmacies have the authority to prescribe for bladder infections if the patient is assessed to safely be able to use the treatment, as set out in the Guidelines developed by medSask and approved by the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals.

**7. What kind of training do pharmacists have to prescribe for bladder infections?**

All Saskatchewan pharmacists have received training in university on urinary tract infections and treatment options. All Saskatchewan pharmacists have also received training to be able to prescribe for Minor Ailments and Self Care conditions. As well, training is available for Saskatchewan pharmacists specific to “acute uncomplicated urinary tract infection” prescribing. It is mandatory for pharmacists to follow the Guidelines.

**8. Do I have to pay to get a prescription from a pharmacist for bladder infections?**

Pharmacies may charge for the assessment required to prescribe for bladder infections in addition to the cost of the medication.

**9. How often can pharmacists prescribe for bladder infections?**

It depends on each situation and individual assessment. Sometimes pharmacists are able to prescribe more than once for discrete episodes of a bladder infection over the course of a year to the same patient. However, pharmacists are not able to prescribe additional antibiotics if a bladder infection was treated within the last 4 weeks; in this case, a physician or nurse practitioner will need to assess the patient for the best treatment option.

***Disclaimer: This document is an interpretation of the Guidelines posted as of March 27, 2018. Please reference the Guidelines for the most complete, current and accurate information.***