



THE COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARIANS  
OF ONTARIO

# PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE STANDARD

## *Management and Disposal of Controlled Drugs*

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### Introduction

Veterinarians are authorized to prescribe, dispense, and administer 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

**Controlled drug:** 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 that the Controlled Drug Log contains information about what drugs were used for which animals, the date that a controlled substance is dispensed or administered, the name and address of the client, the name, strength, and quantity of the controlled substance dispensed or administered, and the quantity of the controlled substance remaining in the member's inventory after the controlled substance is dispensed or administered.
4. Ensures audits<sup>1</sup> are performed on a regular basis.
5. Ensures that all controlled drugs are stored securely at all times.
6. Restricts access to controlled drugs to veterinarians and qualified auxiliary staff.
7. Reports unreconciled loss or theft of drugs to police immediately and to Health Canada within 10 days.
8. Destroys controlled drugs using a process that follows federal regulations and any environmental requirements set out by federal, provincial and/or municipal jurisdictions.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the Guide to this Standard for the specific requirements related to audit requirements.

## 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

R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 1093: General s. 28 (*Veterinarians Act*)  
SRO/2000-217, s. 1(1), 2, 6, 7, 58-62 (*Benzodiazepine and Other Targeted Substances Regulations, Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, Canada*)  
C.R.C., c 870, Part G.01.001-002, G.04.001-002, G.05.001 (*Food and Drug Regulations, Food and Drugs Act, Canada*)  
C.R.C., c 1041, s. 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*

## Resources

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

Sample Controlled Substance 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*

College publications contain practice parameters and standards which should be considered by all Ontario veterinarians in the care of their patients and in the practice of the profession. College publications are developed in consultation with the profession and describe current professional expectations. It is important to note that these College publications may be used by the College or other bodies in determining whether appropriate standards of practice and professional responsibilities have been maintained. The College encourages you to refer to the website ([www.cvo.org](http://www.cvo.org)) to ensure you are referring to the most recent version of any document.