

## Did you know...

---

Next spring, pharmacists will be able to prescribe about ten medications and to renew some prescriptions. In fact, the Health and Social Services minister, Réjean Hébert, announced last December an agreement between the Collège des médecins and the Ordre des pharmaciens concerning some activities they might share.

Eleven situations will now be eligible to prescriptions from a pharmacist. These situations include:

- Preventive treatment against malaria
- Medication for pregnancy-related nausea
- Hormonal contraception for women taking the morning-after pill and waiting for an appointment with a doctor
- Traveller's diarrhea
- Vaginitis
- Minor acne

Pharmacists will also have the opportunity to extend a prescription for patients suffering from chronic diseases with a stable condition. To face these new responsibilities, more than 6 000 pharmacists will be trained in the next few months.

It is a great news for consumers since it may reduce the overcrowding in hospitals and it also an excellent solution to facilitate healthcare access.

However, it could have a negative impact on the consumption of drugs in your group and impact your group insurance premiums. To avoid this problem, keep your group informed on the importance of asking for generic drugs and limiting themselves to necessary treatments.

