



Codeine is an opioid medication used for pain relief and cough suppression. In 2025, codeine-containing products have strict prescription requirements due to the risk of addiction, misuse, and respiratory depression, especially in children and certain vulnerable populations.

Recent changes effective March 1, 2025, require codeine prescriptions to be issued on a secure prescription form with detailed dosage and duration. The maximum prescription duration is limited to 12 weeks (3 months), after which a new prescription is needed. Lower-dose codeine products may be available without prescription in some regions, but higher doses and combination products require secure prescriptions.

New regulations in some regions, like Canada, include adding codeine to prescription monitoring programs and requiring M3P prescriptions with specific elements like therapeutic indication, quantity in numbers and words, and no verbal prescriptions. Physicians must follow strict documentation and prescribing protocols.

Purchasing codeine online legally with limited stock necessitates a valid, secure prescription from a licensed healthcare provider. Unverified or non-prescription sources pose significant legal risks and health dangers, including counterfeit products and unsafe dosing.

In summary, 2025 prescription requirements for codeine emphasize secure prescription protocols, shorter duration limits, and close monitoring, ensuring safe and controlled dispensing through authorized pharmacies.