

This letter is to express my support of the Ontario Pharmacists Association submission on the scope of practice for pharmacists in Ontario. I have seen my role evolve over my 25 years of practice. Today I am a bridge for patients that ensures the continuity of care. When patients cannot reach their doctors or find a doctor they reach out to the most accessible practitioner they know, the pharmacist. We prescribe every day. We advance a few days supply to bridge the patient to maximize the clinical outcomes. We provide important wellness counselling and healthy lifestyle information. We counsel on disease management, we coach patients trying to lose weight or quit smoking. We coach on heart healthy diets. Please validate our roles by stating them in the health policies that govern us. It has been a wonderful start by paying us to do medication reviews. Let's keep the momentum going and recognize our value in this stressed system and give us a little more responsibility. We can do so much more and it can have an enormous effect on reducing some of the stressors on our overworked doctors.

I support all of OPA's comments as listed;

1. Refilling chronic medications under a defined protocol when the appropriate medical information is available to the pharmacist and they can accurately determine the suitability of the refill.

2. Refilling a patient's chronic medication on a one-time basis if the original prescriber is not available.

3. Ordering and receiving laboratory tests, as needed, under a defined set of protocols.

4. Monitoring and adjusting doses of chronic medications under a prescribed protocol.

5. Adapting the dose, dosage form, product selected or quantity required of a prescription for the appropriate treatment of the patient.

6. Initiating prescription therapy for minor ailments from a set formulary using an established protocol for assessment.

7. Initiating therapy for travel prophylaxis and immunizations when needed.

8. Facilitating and administering immunizations and other injectable drugs.

9. Assessing, initiating and monitoring the most appropriate therapy for smoking cessation.

Collaborative health care will never happen if these scope widening practices for pharmacists are not adopted and remunerated.

Respectfully submitted by,

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