

The Ontario College of Pharmacists has submitted on behalf of the pharmacy profession an excellent document proposing changes to the professional scope of practice which would allow pharmacists to use their knowledge and training to enhance and improve patient health outcomes in the province of Ontario. Pharmacists have traditionally dispensed medication and information on drugs. However over recent years the curriculum changes in training and philosophy of practice have focused their practice on the needs of the individual patient and not the product that they are dispensing.

Over recent years many research initiatives (SMART, IMPACT) have been completed providing new knowledge on how pharmacists can be integrated into primary care with other health care professionals including physicians, nurse practitioners, dietitians and others to use their medication related expertise synergistically to aim to optimize the health related outcomes of patients from their medications. This practice puts the pharmacist at the point of prescribing such that the best possible medication should be prescribed to the patient. Improved training initiatives (Structured practical experience program - U of T Faculty of Pharmacy) for community pharmacy based pharmacists have provided a renewed focus on the patient as opposed to product.

As a pharmacist with over 30 years of hospital, community and academic practice experience I fully support the College of Pharmacists proposed revisions to our scope of practice that would allow pharmacists to use their knowledge and training to be better partners in the circle of care for patients.

Yours truly,
Connie Sellors R.Ph. B.Sc.Phm.

