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Subject: Pharmacy Scope of Practice Review


Dietitians of Canada (DC) is pleased to have the opportunity to review and respond to the scope of practice review application for the profession of pharmacy. True interprofessional collaboration, supported by professionals working to their full competencies, is strongly supported by DC. Improvements in the quality of patient care, as well as benefits to the health system, result from professionals working collaboratively.

Pharmacists and RDs work collaboratively in many settings, for example around parenteral nutrition formulations, wellness clinics, and consultation over food and drug interactions. There are aspects of the pharmacy scope of practice review that are particularly pertinent to the working relationship between RDs and pharmacists, which will be discussed below. In addition, there are items which, while not specifically related to nutrition therapy, are supported due to their effect on the overall health system. Authorizing pharmacists to change the form or dosage as described on page 18 (bullet 1) uses the expertise of pharmacists and eliminates unnecessary physician/nurse practitioner phone calls or visits. The remaining recommendations on page 18 appear to be appropriate as well, assuming appropriate standards of practice and communication with the healthcare team are in place. Authorizing pharmacists to perform a procedure below the dermis for the purpose of educating patients to use lancet devices is also supported.

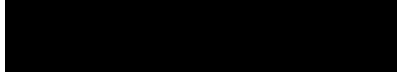
Health promotion and wellness/screening clinics are often located in pharmacies. As identified on page 32, nutrition information features prominently in heart health, diabetes, osteoporosis, and other clinics. Dietitians of Canada supports the dissemination of healthy eating information through pharmacy wellness clinics, including published factsheets and pamphlets for specific conditions from recognized bodies. When an RD is involved in the clinic, nutrition assessment and individualized nutrition therapy can be offered as well, offering the consumer added benefits through the interdisciplinary approach. When no RD is present at wellness clinics, pharmacists should ensure that referral information is available for consumers presenting with nutrition-related risk factors requiring individualized assessment and therapy.

Pharmacy, physiotherapy, and other professions have noted the need for changes to The Public Hospitals Act to support interprofessional collaboration and eliminate delays in patient treatment. Expanding the list of professionals authorized to order diagnostic and treatment procedures within the hospital setting would improve continuity of care as well as overall system efficiency and effectiveness.

Dietitians of Canada commends HPRAC for initiating scope of practice review enable interprofessional collaboration, and supports changes to regulated health professions that will result in safe, effective patient care.



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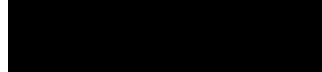
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