

As a pharmacist in Ontario, Manitoba, and Nunavut, I would like to comment on an expanded role for pharmacists.

It would be useful if pharmacists could renew a prescription for a maintenance drug, for one month, in the absence of the family doctor. This would apply only for conditions like hypothyroidism, high blood pressure, and asthma. It would alleviate hardship for the patient, when their doctor was away. In Manitoba, there is provision for this action, under their "Continuity of Care" legislation.

Also, it would be useful to be able to repeat previous prescriptions, for urinary tract infections, for women. There was a case in my practice, in which an American woman brought a script for UTI from an American doctor. She had symptoms of UTI, but I could not fill the out-of-country prescription. I can only imagine what her subsequent two weeks at a remote fishing camp was like.

These are my suggestions. Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,
Larry Wilson
B.Sc.Pharm.