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In recent years, the Ontario government have passed and implemented a number of legislations and regulation that have a huge impact on the pharmacy profession. The recent proposal by the Minister Simtheman to expand the scope of practice for pharmacist in this province has to be the most positive news for the pharmacy profession, to our healthcare system, and the people of Ontario.

It a well-known fact our profession is the most accessible and least used health profession. The current regulation essentially redistricted and inhibited the wealth of education and knowledge from being used by people of Ontario thereby benefiting the healthcare system in general.

If I my understanding of the proposed regulations is accurate, as pharmacists we will be able to help extend a prescription initially prescribed by a practitioner for a month. This is already happening albeit in small scale. There are thousands of Ontarians without a primary care giver. Pharmacists feel obligated to serve these patients to the best of their ability while respecting the spirit and letter of the current law. This is obviously to continue their current therapy and avoid complications and hospitalization. By looking after these patients at their own local pharmacy by the pharmacist they know and trust the healthcare system is saving money in many ways as well. It is a well-known fact the ministry spending millions of dollars on walk-in clinics just to renew prescriptions.

Pharmacist counsel patients not only on their prescribed medications but on lifestyle issues, such as smoking session, diabetes, asthma, COPD, cardiovascular disease, and many more disease states in order to better the health of their patients. Pharmacist routinely are asked to make a medical diagnosis. After determining the cause of the patient concern through meaningful systematic interview we either recommend an OTC product, may advise the patient to seek medical help, or simply reassure the patient of their concern. This can described as prescribing or triaging patients to seek appropriate care. By taking this one step further, pharmacists are more than capable of prescribing for a limit set of diagnosis with a limit prescription drugs. Once again, this will further enhance patient care by freeing up physicians to look after the seriously ill patients. With the current shortage of family physicians and the over crowding of emergency rooms and walk-in clinics, this will definitely benefit all Ontarians and the healthcare system in general.

Finally, allowing pharmacist in the process of training glucose monitoring devise to utilize bloodletting devises will enhance patient education and care. Similarly, in process of staring patients on insulin pharmacist should be allowed to demonstrate proper of technique of insulin injection. Furthermore, administering vaccine injections such as flu vaccine, hepatitis A and B to name

of a few will serve to enhance patient care while reducing the workload by other healthcare professionals.

In conclusion, the days of pharmacist simply deciphering doctors prescription typing and labelling are long gone. Today's pharmacists have a five-year or more of University studying. We are more than capable of handing these added responsibly. These are not groundbreaking proposals. Other countries such as UK, Australia, and other jurisdictions in Canada have even further than this. It is time pharmacist in this province be allowed to practice what they were all educated and trained for. I urge the Minister of Health to implement the current proposal in regulations as soon as possible. The Ontario Pharmacist Association speaks for all pharmacist in this province, as a member of this association I fully support the association's submission to expand the scope of practice for all pharmacist in the province.

Respectfully,

Munir Suleiman, B.Sc.Pharm., C.D.E.

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