

I am a practising pharmacist who has been licensed in Ontario since 1980. I am in full support of the changes in scope of practice that have been proposed.

Graduates of contemporary post secondary pharmacy programs are competantly trained to perform acts as described in the submissions by OCP and OPA. The graduates are ready, willing and able - but more importantly, our clients are already asking us to perform these functions on a daily basis. Although similar, the OPA submission would give more authority to pharmacists than OCP's submission. At the very least, the OCP submission is worthy of approval, but to truly advance health care in Ontario, the OPA submission with additional responsibilities will enhance health care for all Ontarions, and bring our standards to levels that have already been achieved in other provinces.

There is no doubt that there are countries e.g. United Kingdom, where the scope of pharmacist practice is advancing at a very quick pace. I encourage you to allow the practice of pharmacy in Ontario to follow the international trend so that the people of Ontario could benefit from this advancement in care at the pharmacy level.

Given the cost of health care in Ontario, a key component to the successful change in scope of pharmacy practice will be resolution of the critical issue of fair and reasonable reimbursement for professional services performed by pharmacists.

Yours truly,
Paul Kuras
Past-President
Canadian Pharmacists Association