

With today's healthcare, is an apple a day your safest bet?



Patient safety is of vital importance to every healthcare professional. A critical component to patient safety is proper diagnosis. Doctors, and doctors alone, have years of education in both diagnosis and treatment. It's complex. That is why it takes years of study to learn.

Certainly, changes to our healthcare system are necessary to improve access for everyone in Ontario. Yet some changes raise questions. Nurse Practitioners provide a valuable service. But shouldn't their diagnosis and treatments be regularly reviewed by a physician? Allowing pharmacists to prescribe certain medications may seem convenient, but do they have the training

in diagnosis and examination to do this properly? By both prescribing and selling medications, isn't there a risk of conflict of interest and a potential risk to patient safety? Wouldn't you be more comfortable with a doctor overseeing your care?

When making changes to healthcare, would it not be prudent for the government to consult and listen to the most educated frontline healthcare providers: doctors? We think so. And we think you do, too. Ask a doctor what you can do to help ensure that increasing access to your healthcare does not compromise your safety.

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