

## Prescription for druggists

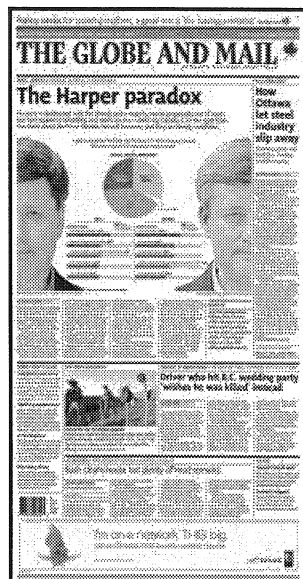
CAROLYN BORNSTEIN  
PRESIDENT, CANADIAN SOCIETY OF HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS  
AUGUST 28, 2007

Ottawa -- The Globe and Mail reported that "Canada's doctors are bitterly denouncing the idea that pharmacists be allowed to prescribe drugs independently, saying such a practice places patients at risk."

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists supports pharmacist prescribing when both the patient *and* the physician are included. The Canadian Medical Association's motion to limit the ability of pharmacists to apply their knowledge jeopardizes the safe and effective management of patient drug therapy (Only Doctors May Prescribe, CMA Resolves - Aug. 22).

Only 56 per cent of CMA attendees at the group's general council meeting in Vancouver voted against an expanded role for the pharmacist within collaborative care teams. That means 44 per cent have respect for a pharmacist's role in optimizing patient care.

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## Pharmacists should be full players on team

August 29, 2007

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**MDs reject new role for**

**pharmacists**

**Aug. 22**

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This story said that a majority of doctors attending a Canadian Medical Association convention "have voted against letting pharmacists prescribe medicine when they're part of a team caring for patients."

In 2002, the Romanow report proposed changes to the Canadian health-care system, including a recommendation that "pharmacists can play an increasingly important role as part of the health-care team." Changing the role of the pharmacist within a collaborative team is not new. The collaborative-care team model works very effectively in hospitals where health-care professionals work together.

CSHP supports pharmacist prescribing when both the patient and the physician are included. The CMA's motion to limit the ability of pharmacists to apply their knowledge jeopardizes the safe and effective management of patient drug therapy. Only 56 per cent of CMA attendees voted against an expanded role for the pharmacist within collaborative-care teams. That means 44 per cent have respect for a pharmacist's role in optimizing patient care.

How many doctors who were not in attendance are already working with a pharmacist on their team?

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*Carolyn Bornstein, President, Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, Ottawa*

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# The ChronicleHerald.ca

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## Teamwork works

By CAROLYN BORNSTEIN

An Aug. 22 Canadian Press story in The Chronicle Herald reported that "doctors don't believe pharmacists should be writing prescriptions independently" and that "Doctors said they should lead such teams and prescribe medication because they're adequately trained to take a patient's medical history, do a physical exam, order and interpret tests and come up with a diagnosis."

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) advocates for the role of pharmacists as capable prescribers and supports the pharmacists' role in a collaborative prescribing model to improve patient health outcomes and increase the successful and efficient delivery of pharmaceutical care.

In 2002, the Romanow report proposed changes to the Canadian health care system, including a recommendation that, "Pharmacists can play an increasingly important role as part of the health care team ... the growing emphasis on collaborative teams and networks of health providers means that traditional scopes of practice also need to change." The collaborative care team model works very effectively in hospitals where health care professionals work together, respecting and relying on each other's unique and complementary expertise to help ensure the best possible care for their patients.

Hospital pharmacists, the "medication experts" on these collaborative teams, are committed to the best use of medications for the best outcomes for our patients. Evidence shows that pharmacists are critical to reducing medication-related adverse events. They have the university education, practical training and skills required to initiate, modify, monitor and manage drug therapy. Hospital pharmacists prescribing under medical directives have supported physicians and patient care for several years; this has demonstrated a clinical partnership that works well.

CSHP supports pharmacist prescribing when both the patient and the physician are included. The CMA's motion to limit the ability of pharmacists to apply their knowledge jeopardizes the safe and effective management of patient drug therapy. Only 56 per cent of CMA attendees voted against an expanded role for the pharmacist within collaborative care teams. That means 44 per cent have respect for a pharmacist's role in optimizing patient care. And how many physicians who were not in attendance are already working with a pharmacist on their care team?

Carolyn Bornstein is president of the CSHP.

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