



Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Société canadienne des pharmaciens d'hôpitaux

Mission

Committed to the advancement of safe, effective medication use and patient care in hospitals and related healthcare settings.

Engagés à l'avancement de l'utilisation sécuritaire et efficace des médicaments, et des soins aux patients dans les établissements de santé.

The Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy

Le Journal canadien de la pharmacie hospitalière

Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board

Conseil canadien de résidence en pharmacie d'hôpital

Board of Fellows

Conseil des associés

May xx, 2010

Pharmacist Prescribing Campaign Letter to National Stakeholders

Dear (Stakeholder):

Pharmacists are committed to the provision of high-quality patient-centred care. In recent years, prescriptive authority has been extended beyond physicians to other healthcare professionals, including nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, dietitians, podiatrists, and pharmacists in some jurisdictions. The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) is a strong advocate of practice advancement for hospital pharmacists, including prescribing by pharmacists.

The authorization to prescribe is a tool that enables hospital pharmacists to further engage in activities that have a positive influence on patient outcomes. The goal of prescribing by pharmacists is to improve the health of Canadians by optimizing the use of a pharmacist's knowledge and expertise.

Pharmacists work collaboratively with other health professionals and patients, sharing information to support high quality, safe prescribing. Pharmacists are the one healthcare professional on collaborative teams whose education and practical training is focused on the use of medications to optimise a patient's overall health outcomes. Evidence shows that pharmacists are critical to reducing medication-related adverse events¹ and improving medication safety². In many practice settings across Canada, hospital pharmacists already participate in collaborative prescribing agreements; this demonstrates a clinical partnership between physicians and pharmacists that can and does work well.

Pharmacists are obliged to practise within the boundaries of their legislative practice framework, which includes standards of practice and codes of ethics. Many provinces across Canada are in various stages of enacting legislation to enable pharmacists to prescribe.³ Healthcare institutions are subsequently changing their policies in support of the expanded scope of practice. Legislation and policy can support safe and responsible healthcare by authorizing pharmacists to practice to the full extent of their knowledge and skills.

The enclosed CSHP *Prescribing by Pharmacists: Statement* and *Prescribing by Pharmacists: Information Paper* further explain the rationale and evidence to support this latest advance in practice for the purpose of improving patient care.

Because you are influential in the healthcare community, I encourage you to join with CSHP and hospital pharmacists in support of prescribing by pharmacists within collaborative professional environments. Your provincial CSHP branch representative or the national CSHP office can help answer any questions you may have.

If you require more information on this or any other hospital pharmacy matter, please contact your local CSHP representative (contact information provided below) or Dr. Myrella Roy, Executive Director, CSHP, at 613-736-9733, ext 225; or mroy@cshp.ca.

Yours truly,



Jason Howorko
President, Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

Enclosures (2)

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References:

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5. Prescribing by pharmacists: Information Paper (2009). Ottawa (ON): Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists; 2009 [cited 2009 Nov 12]. Available from: http://www.cshp.ca/productsServices/officialPublications/subject_e.asp (*Internet copy available only to CSHP members.*)