Help Saskatchewan Pharmacists Expand Health Care Access

Pharmacists are skilled health care providers. We offer Saskatchewan residents numerous health care services beyond medication dispensing.

We can help you manage chronic diseases like diabetes or hypertension, provide immunizations, assist you when you have run out of prescription refills, and prescribe for a select range of minor health conditions.

But we can do much more.

Expanded Scope of Practice

Pharmacists in many provinces across the country are able to offer a range of expanded health services. Pharmacists have the knowledge and skills to be able to do more. We want to be able to offer expanded services to Saskatchewan residents. To be able to offer these services our "scope of practice" needs to be expanded.

Pharmacy care clinics

In provinces such as Alberta, and Nova Scotia, expanded scope has led to the development of Pharmacy Care Clinics, and Community Pharmacy Primary Care Clinics, enabling pharmacists to deliver and provide improved access to care.

Chronic Disease Management

Nearly 25% of Saskatchewan residents live with a chronic disease, placing a significant burden on Saskatchewan's health system. With an expanded scope of practice, pharmacists could play a more active role in helping patients to manage their chronic diseases. To do this, pharmacists would need to be able to perform point of care testing and order lab tests required to manage these conditions, as they are able to do in other provinces.

In Alberta, Ontario, and Nova Scotia, pharmacists are able to provide chronic disease management services including drug therapy assessments and follow-ups, for patients living with chronic diseases, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity. In addition to drug therapy assessments, pharmacists in these provinces also provide advice on lifestyle changes, device training, and patient education, using a structured approach to help patients manage their chronic diseases.

Pharmacists and province-wide health care access

There are more than **1800 pharmacists**, and **400 pharmacy technicians** located in more than **125 communities** across Saskatchewan. **Pharmacists are often the only health care providers located or available in many rural and remote Saskatchewan communities.**

By expanding our scope of practice, pharmacists can help to meet the health care needs of urban, rural and remote communities in a timely manner.

You can help pharmacists expand our scope of practice and your access to health care. Talk to your MLA about increasing patient access to health care services in Saskatchewan, by expanding pharmacists' scope of practice.