



## **Response to the Ontario College of Pharmacists' proposed expanded scope regulatory amendments**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on proposed expanded scope for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

The Ontario Long Term Care Association is the largest association of long-term care providers in Canada, and the only association that represents the full mix of long-term care operators – private, not-for-profit, municipal and First Nations. We represent 70% of Ontario's 626 long-term care homes located in communities across the province.

For over 60 years, the OLTCA has worked to promote safe, quality long-term care to Ontario's seniors. We strive to lead the sector in innovation, quality care and services, building excellence in long-term care through leadership, analysis, advocacy, and member services. Over the course of our history, we have developed a strong tradition of using a solutions-oriented approach to advance the delivery of the care and services to meet the changing needs of Ontario's long-term care residents.

The OLTCA strongly supports the recommend expanded scope.

Allowing more vaccinations to be administered by pharmacists increases access for all Ontarians to vaccinations, improves vaccination rates and reduces community spread of respiratory illnesses. Throughout the pandemic, long-term care homes in areas of high community spread saw the worst outbreaks. As the province moves into the fall respiratory season, wide-spread vaccination will be a critical tool in reducing community spread of respiratory illness and protecting those living in long-term care homes.

Additionally, pharmacists are important partners in long-term care homes helping to improve the quality of care for residents across Ontario. Particularly throughout the pandemic, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians helped homes respond as the province faced a growing health human resources crisis. Opening up scope of practice for more registered health professionals – including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians – when it is safe to do so will ensure we can respond to growing resident needs in long-term care homes with more nimble, interprofessional teams.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The OLTCA welcomes the opportunity to work with the Ontario College of Pharmacists to help ensure safe, effective care in long-term care homes.

--

For more information or questions, please contact:

Chris Pugh, Manager of Policy and Quality – [cpugh@oltca.com](mailto:cpugh@oltca.com)