

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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and Minister of Health and
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**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

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May 30, 2019

HLTC2968IT-2019-57

Ms. Laura Weyland
President
Ontario College of Pharmacists
483 Huron Street
Toronto ON M5R 2R4

Dear Ms. Weyland:

As was articulated in the 2019 Ontario Budget, we are committed to enabling health professions to use their education and training more effectively by expanding the scope of practice for certain regulated health professionals.

One way that we can achieve our vision, is to ensure that patients have streamlined care pathways that make connections easier in the system and that there is access to minor and routine care in the community. Recognizing the integral role that pharmacists play in helping us to achieve these commitments, I would like the Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacists (College) to make regulations that would enable pharmacists to do the following:

1. Administer the flu vaccine to children as young as two years old;
2. Renew prescriptions in quantities of up to a year's supply;
3. Administer certain substances by injection and/or inhalation for purposes that are in addition to patient education and demonstration; and
4. Prescribe drugs for certain minor ailments.

With respect to the first three items listed above, I would like the College to submit a regulation to the ministry for my review no later than November 30, 2019. With respect to prescribing for minor ailments, I would like the College to submit a regulation to the ministry for my review no later than June 30, 2020.

Additionally, in recognition of the need for pharmacists to have access to information to assist with medication management and the treatment of patients, I have asked ministry staff to work with the College to authorize pharmacists to perform certain point of care tests for certain chronic conditions. I have asked that this be implemented as soon as possible, once a broad consultation occurs.

Ms. Laura Weyland

To ensure that the work of the College considers all possible perspectives, I am expecting the College to actively consult with system partners in the development of its own regulations and that this work be undertaken as soon as possible. I understand that as a result of these consultations and through the College's own work, that there may be the need to place parameters on these new authorities. This may include the College requiring pharmacists to demonstrate that they are competent and can provide safe, high-quality care when performing these activities.

I would like to thank the College for its continued contributions to the healthcare system in Ontario, and I look forward to your continued partnership on these initiatives.

Sincerely,



Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

- c: Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Patrick Dicerni, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning Division
- Allison Henry, Director, Health Workforce Regulatory Oversight Branch
- Nancy Lum-Wilson, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario College of Pharmacists
- Justin Bates, Chief Executive Officer, Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada
- Bill Wilson, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Pharmacists Association