



What are the benefits to you?

- o Your pharmacist can now better help manage your medications between doctors visits.
- o Your pharmacist is easily accessible – which means greater convenience in managing your medications.

Who will benefit the most?

- o Patients who have a long-standing relationship with their pharmacist and pharmacy.
- o Patients with stable chronic conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

Points to remember:

- o Your pharmacist will not automatically renew or adapt your prescription.
- o You still need to visit your doctor regularly.
- o Your pharmacist will discuss any changes to your medications with you.

Get to Know Your Pharmacist. The More they Know You, The More they Can Help.

Although the role of your pharmacist has expanded and there are new services that they may be able to provide to you, it is important to understand that they are not obligated to provide these services. As always, pharmacists must consider each situation individually and use their professional judgment to determine if they have sufficient information about you and your health status to make a change that is in your best interest.

You will of course be involved in the decision making process with your pharmacist and any changes agreed to will be documented and shared with your doctor.

Pharmacists, as medication management experts, are integral members of your health care team. They can minimize the possibility of drug interactions and allergic reactions and make sure you get the most benefit from your medications.

It is vital that you have a good relationship with your pharmacist. Your pharmacist can only determine what is best for you, and what is safe, if they know your medication history, your lifestyle, and your current health condition.

For more information visit the Ontario College of Pharmacists' website:
www.ocpinfo.com
Or speak to your pharmacist.

Understanding Your Pharmacist's Expanded Role



- o Initiating Therapy for Smoking Cessation
- o Renewing and Adapting Prescriptions
- o Administering Injections or Inhalation (for education and demonstration)
- o Administering the Flu Vaccine



Effective October 9, 2012 the provincial government announced new regulations expanding the role of pharmacists in Ontario. *Pharmacists, using their professional judgment, will now be able to do even more to help manage your medication therapy.*

What do these changes mean to you?

o Initiating Therapy for Smoking Cessation:

Your pharmacist has always been a valuable resource for providing information and monitoring therapies to help you stop smoking and they can now prescribe your medication making it even more convenient for you.

o Renewing Prescriptions:

If you have a chronic condition and have been stable on your medication(s) with no adverse reactions, your pharmacist may be able to renew your prescription(s)*. It is important to remember that this does not replace your need to see your doctor for regular check-ups and monitoring of your condition. The maximum length of time that your pharmacist may renew your prescription is for six months or the length of the original prescription, whichever is less.

o Adapting Prescriptions:

Before, if your pharmacist identified a need to change your prescription, they would contact your doctor for authorization before making the change which could result in a delay in providing you with your prescription. Although this still may be the appropriate course of action, in certain circumstances your pharmacist can now make the adaptation to your prescription themselves and notify your doctor after.

* Excludes narcotics, controlled drugs, targeted substances or monitored drugs designated under the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act

The types of changes your pharmacist could consider in order to make your medication therapy the most appropriate for you are: changing the formulation (ie; from a capsule to liquid), altering the regimen (ie; take 4 times a day to take twice a day) or adjusting the dose of your medication.

Any changes made would be done with your consent, documented and shared with your doctor.

o Administering Injections or Inhalation: (for education and demonstration)

Training and educating you or your care giver on the appropriate use of medications has always been a core part of pharmacy practice. Now, if you have a prescription for a self-administered injection or inhalation, to treat your diabetes or asthma as an



example, your pharmacist may be able to demonstrate and teach you how to administer the medication yourself.

Additional Training to Administer Injections

Whether your pharmacist is administering injections for the purpose of education or demonstration or administering publicly funded flu vaccine as part of the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) they have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills by completing a training program. You can confirm your pharmacist's training by checking the public register (Member/Pharmacy Search) on the Ontario College of Pharmacists' website at www.ocpinfo.com.



Administering the Flu Vaccine

Many pharmacies have been participating in the provinces' Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP) for years by hosting flu clinics administered by nurses. Although this practice will continue, additional pharmacies may now participate directly in the UIIP and trained pharmacists can administer the vaccine to patients five years and older.

To find a participating pharmacy in your area simply google "Get Your Flu Shot" or speak to your pharmacist.

Get to Know Your Pharmacist.



Ontario College
of Pharmacists
Putting patients first since 1871