



Jay O'Neill  
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**Re: Public Consultation on Expanded Scope of Practice for Ontario Pharmacists**

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on Ontario's [recent announcement](#) on proposed regulatory changes that would expand scopes of practice for a number of healthcare professionals. I am writing to you today on behalf of Health Canada regarding proposed amendments that would authorize pharmacists in Ontario to "[administer injectable partial opioid agonists and antagonists](#), specifically, buprenorphine."

Health Canada is committed to working with provinces and territories to strengthen health care and to address the drug crisis that has claimed far too many lives in Canada. This includes working together to further expand access to evidence-based treatment options for people dealing with substance use disorders, such as buprenorphine.

While the regulations under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) do not permit pharmacists to administer controlled substances like buprenorphine, Health Canada is actively examining options to provide pharmacists with the legal certainty to administer drugs containing controlled substances (e.g. buprenorphine) to patients pursuant to a prescription.

On behalf of Health Canada, I commit to continuing to work with the Ontario Ministry of Health and the Ontario College of Pharmacists to explore options for a solution to this issue. If you would like to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Aysha Mawani  
Director General  
Controlled Substances and Overdose Response Directorate  
Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch  
Health Canada