

ONTARIO COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS STANDARD, POLICY AND GUIDELINE CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

The College is revising the regulations to the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation (DPRA) Act* using an outcomes-based, high-level approach which will provide flexibility in regulatory oversight and support practice innovation. Shifting the regulatory emphasis in this manner aligns with the government's Ontario Regulatory Policy which supports the adoption of result-based regulations. All future College regulatory amendments will be drafted using this approach.

In conjunction with the draft regulations, the College will utilize the 'consultation framework' when drafting new standards, policies or guidelines, or when proposing substantive changes to any existing guidance document, to ensure that stakeholder engagement is solicited when appropriate.

The established consultation process ensures all stakeholders have an opportunity to review proposed and revised documents and provide input for consideration through the consultation page on the College's website prior to approval of the final documents. The use of an open and transparent consultation process ensures that standards, policies and guidelines developed by the College have considered feedback by the public, practitioners and other stakeholders and are reflective of current standards of practice of the profession.

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STANDARD, POLICY AND GUIDELINE CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

When drafting new, or revising existing, standards, policies, guidelines or other guidance documents that are intended to define expectations in practice the College uses the 'Consultation Framework' to determine if stakeholder consultation is required by applying the following principles:

Consultation Principles

1. Stakeholder consultation on a standard, policy or guideline will be considered when a new or revised standard, policy or guideline:
 - a. Addresses an issue directly related to patient or public safety; or
 - b. Is likely to have a significant impact on member practice; or
 - c. Is likely to have a significant impact on pharmacy practice or operations; or
 - d. Relates to a shared scope of practice and/or will have an impact on inter-professional collaboration.
2. The College will ensure that sufficient time is allotted to receive, assess, and consider stakeholder feedback.
3. All feedback will be publicly shared.
4. All feedback will be carefully considered in the development of final documents.

The [consultation process](#) ensures that the public, practitioners and all other interested stakeholders have an opportunity to provide feedback on new and revised documents related to pharmacy practice prior to final approval.

Documents that are available for consultation are posted on the College website with clearly specified submission deadlines. The duration of consultations is generally 60 days but may vary according to Council's needs and the status of a topic. The College may also solicit comments directly from targeted stakeholders.

To ensure transparency and encourage open dialogue, the feedback received is posted in accordance with [posting guidelines](#). Individual feedback is anonymized although specified as from a pharmacist, pharmacy technician, applicant, or member of the public, and organizations are identified. All feedback is posted for the duration of the consultation for public viewing and comments and archived on the website for future reference.

All feedback is considered, even that which is not incorporated into the final version. When considering how to incorporate feedback, the College considers how comments and suggestions align with the [mandate of the College](#).