

JUNE 2018

COUNCIL MEETING

As recorded following Council's regularly scheduled meeting held on June 11th, 2018.

PATIENT REFLECTIONS AT COUNCIL

It is increasingly important for the College to hear and learn from the perspectives of patients and those with lived experiences and to involve them in how we operate as Canada's largest pharmacy regulator. As the College moves forward with identifying new ways to engage patients and the public in our work, the June 2018 Council meeting marked the start of a new format that will involve sharing a patient perspective at the beginning of every Council meeting to help ground the discussions and reinforce the importance of the public-protection mandate of the College.

At this meeting, Council was pleased to welcome Ms. Melissa Sheldrick, the mother of Andrew Sheldrick who passed away following a medication error in 2016, to share her perspective as a patient advocate. Ms. Sheldrick served as a member of our medication safety task force, which recommended what will ultimately become the largest Medication Safety Program of its kind in Canada, and has since championed patient safety and inspired positive change throughout the country.

COUNCIL APPROVES THE 2019 OPERATIONAL PLAN

In March 2018, Council participated in a facilitated planning session aimed at setting a new strategic framework to guide the work of the College over the next three years. Since then, College staff have worked on formalizing the framework and developing an operational plan for 2019 that aligns with the new strategic priorities identified by Council. The final [2019-2021 Strategic Framework](#) and 2019 Operational Plan were presented to Council and can be found on the College's website. Each quarter, Council will receive a scorecard tracking the progress against the operational objectives identified in the operating plan.

CANNABIS STRATEGY AND POSITION STATEMENT

In September 2017, Council agreed to establish a task force to develop a cannabis strategy given the changing landscape in Ontario. The task force developed *A Cannabis Strategy for Pharmacy*, which was presented to Council at its June 2018 meeting, to support the ability of pharmacy professionals to respond to changes in the pharmacy practice environment related to the use of cannabis for medical purposes

and the implications associated with the legalization of recreational cannabis. Council also considered a position statement regarding the dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes in pharmacies. Council agreed to an amended position statement, which is now posted on our website along with the Cannabis Strategy, FAQs and other supporting information.

CONSULTATIONS

Input from the public, pharmacy professionals and other stakeholders assists the College in the development of policies, guidelines and other documents and decisions that support our strategic priorities and the fulfillment of our mandate. At the June 2018 meeting, Council supported the College's recommendation to seek input on the following issues:

- **Supplemental Standards of Practice – Medication Safety Program**

As the College proceeds to implement the Medication Safety Program, it is expected that the requirements of the program will be formalized through the adoption of a supplemental Standard of Practice, which will be brought forward for final approval in September.



● **Standards of Operation**

The College is also consulting on Standards of Operation that serve to clarify the expectations of pharmacy operators to provide an environment that supports safe and effective practice, including participation in the Medication Safety Program.

● **Modernizing the Veterinarians Act**

In Ontario, both licensed veterinarians and pharmacists may compound, dispense or sell drugs that are to be administered to animals. The College of Veterinarians of Ontario’s (CVO) Council has recently approved recommendations for modernizing the *Veterinarians Act* to an authorized-acts model. Feedback is sought regarding changes being considered by CVO that will impact pharmacists, specifically that pharmacists would not be permitted to prescribe, adapt or administer any drug or substance to, or for, an animal. If you are a pharmacist involved in the practice of dispensing or compounding drugs to be administered to animals, the College would like to hear from you. The feedback is intended to be brought back to Council for information and provided to CVO to inform their work.

MODEL STANDARDS FOR PHARMACY COMPOUNDING OF NON-STERILE PREPARATIONS

Following Council’s adoption of the [Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding of Non-Sterile Preparations](#) in December 2017, the College initiated a stepwise implementation of the Standards, starting with an expectation for pharmacy professionals to familiarize themselves with the Standards and begin to identify their knowledge and practice gaps. Implementation will be guided by a national working group with representatives from provincial pharmacy regulatory authorities and pharmacy professionals. The working group will meet in September 2018 and use a risk-based approach to determine the first set of critical elements required for the next phase of implementation. High-risk activities, such as the handling of hazardous products will be prioritized and Council will be asked to consider and approve an implementation date based on the recommendations of this working group.

REGISTRATION PRACTICE – PACE AND COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

In February 2014, Council accepted the pilot implementation of PACE (Practice Assessment of Competence at Entry) as a

new model embedding principles of fairness and objectivity while allowing for assessment of candidate knowledge, skills and abilities. A comprehensive evaluation of PACE processes and outcomes, including stakeholder surveys and focus groups, was undertaken and confirmed that PACE was accomplishing its goals, specifically to (1) differentiate between those who are competent to practice and those who aren’t and (2) reduce the amount of time required for the structured practical training requirement for those who are competent to practice.

At its June 2018 meeting, Council approved PACE as the structured practical training program requirement for pharmacist applicants. The development of PACE for pharmacy technicians will follow the implementation of changes to the experiential requirements for Canadian pharmacy technician programs, and will take effect in 2019.

Council then discussed and approved Council Resolutions that recognize Ontario entry-level PharmD graduates and Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists residents as meeting the structured practical training (PACE) requirements for registration purposes, through the completion of these programs.

OPTIMIZING PRACTICE STRATEGY – FUTURE OF PHARMACY

The Ontario Pharmacy Evidence Network (OPEN) is a team of multidisciplinary researchers who work together to evaluate the quality, outcomes and value of medication management services that pharmacists and other healthcare professionals provide. OPEN was commissioned by the College to prepare a paper aimed at providing the profession of pharmacy with critical insight and strategic direction to help envision the future of pharmacy.

Dr. Lisa Dolovich, who co-leads the OPEN program, presented to Council the themes emerging through this research. Ms. Susan James, Director, Quality, also presented to Council on how these themes will contribute to and enhance the College's own Optimizing Practice Strategy, which was developed to promote pharmacists and pharmacy technicians practicing to current scope. The paper is intended to be published with the objective of promoting discussion among pharmacy stakeholders regarding scope of pharmacy practice within the health care system in ways that make a difference in people's lives.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS


To support planning for various College program activities, Council approved a meeting schedule for the next year as follows:

2018

- Monday, September 17 and Tuesday, September 18, 2018
- Monday, December 10, 2018

2019

- Monday, March 25, 2019
- Monday, June 17, 2019
- Monday, September 23 and Tuesday, September 24, 2019
- Monday, December 9, 2019

Council meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chambers of the College at 483 Huron Street, Toronto, ON M5R 2R4. They are also live-tweeted. If you plan to attend, or for more information, please contact Ms. Ushma Rajdev, Council and Executive Liaison at council@ocpinfo.com. 



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