



Ontario College
of Pharmacists

Putting patients first since 1871

OPTIMIZING PRACTICE STRATEGY:

*Promoting informed, quality and
safe pharmacy care through
optimized practice*

October 2019

The Optimizing Practice Strategy supports the College's strategic priority toward enhancing system and patient outcomes through collaboration and optimization of the current scopes of practice for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Healthcare professions in Ontario are embracing a more patient-centered approach to address increasing pressure within the healthcare system and the optimization of pharmacy practice is a positive step towards enhancing healthcare delivery.

Acknowledging the transforming healthcare landscape, the Optimizing Practice Strategy promotes a more sustainable, integrated and adaptable

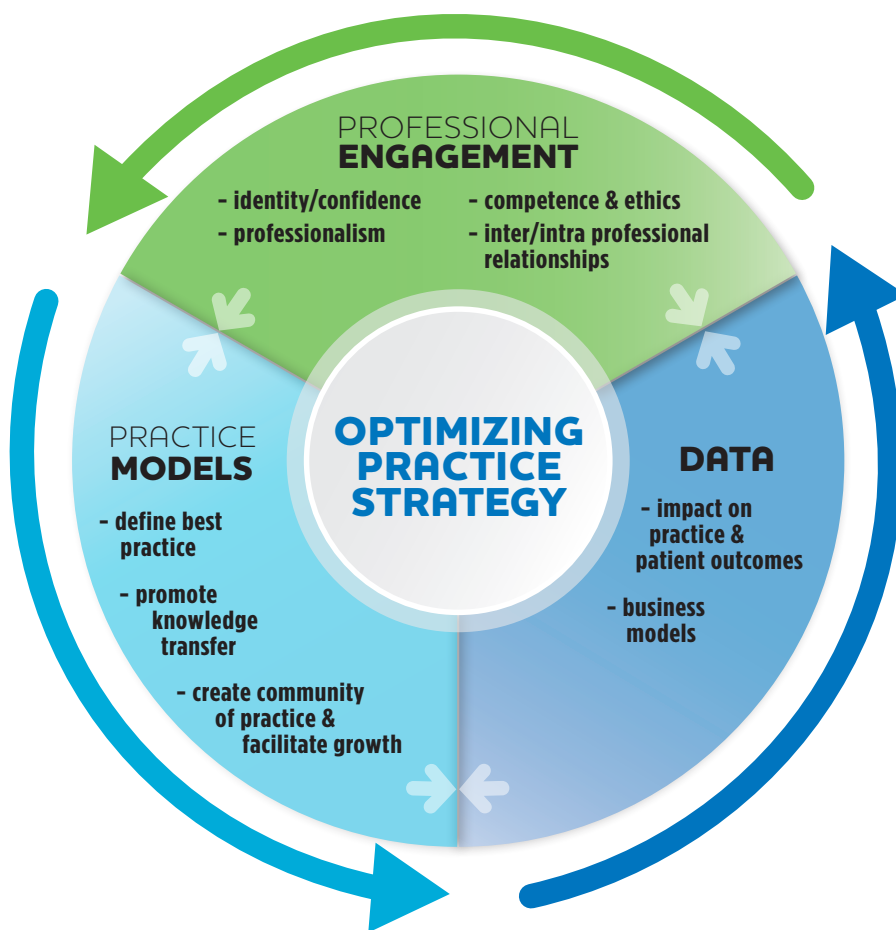
profession. By focusing on professional engagement, the Strategy strives to improve efficiencies by supporting inter- and intra-professional collaboration. This includes developing stronger relationships between pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and other healthcare professionals.

The Strategy also evaluates practice models to identify and test patient-centered care to highlight characteristics and facilitators of best practice. Finally, the Strategy examines ways that data can be used to better understand the performance of the profession and how it interacts within the healthcare system.

The pharmacy profession needs to plan for the future by considering how changing demographics, healthcare models, and technological influences are making our healthcare system more complex. Through this examination, the Strategy allows the profession to remain proactive within a constantly changing practice environment and a landscape of evolving patient and public expectations and healthcare needs. It is important to note that the success of the Strategy is not dependent on increased scope of pharmacy practice, but optimizing the performance within existing scope.

THE STRATEGY'S PURPOSE:

The Optimizing Practice Strategy has three key mechanisms:





1. Professional Engagement

Strengthening professional engagement of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians is crucial to the success of the Strategy. The Strategy aims to nurture an environment that promotes professional engagement by collaboratively identifying barriers that exist in the pharmacy profession while cooperatively finding practical and effective solutions to facilitate optimal practice.

Improving professional identity, confidence and inter- and intra-professional collaboration is a way in which many of these barriers can be addressed, as the pharmacy profession is not a lone pillar, but rather a component of a wider healthcare network. This will result in more complete and comprehensive care and provide a more holistic picture of patients' needs and pharmacy's ability to contribute as part of a broader health system committed to good patient outcomes.

Furthermore, the College will encourage education and training programs to explore opportunities to promote professional engagement through more collaborative learning and professional integration within the healthcare system.

2. Practice Models

The College, together with key pharmacy partners, will work to inform best practice models through structural, policy, and/or procedural changes that capitalize on pharmacy professionals' current scope.

Practice models that support collaborative practice and patient-centered care will be identified and tested through demonstration projects. Once established, the characteristics and facilitators of these models will be important and helpful in promoting knowledge transfer and cross-provincial spread.

3. Data

Data will be used to help better understand the impact of the profession on and within the healthcare system. This will be accomplished by utilizing the College's data to make evidence-informed decisions and identify opportunities to shape optimal practice. Some examples of this work will include analyzing practice model outcomes as well as practice assessment data that the College currently collects. In addition, the College will work with healthcare stakeholders to gain access to system data to analyze and understand the impact of pharmacy practice on patient outcomes. This will help the profession as a whole make more evidence-based decisions on how to promote quality and safe pharmacy care through optimized practice within scope.

Through implementation of the Strategy, the College hopes to define characteristics associated with optimal practice and glean key learnings that will lead to improved patient health outcomes. It will involve working with pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and other stakeholders to uncover and understand the barriers that hinder optimal practice and to highlight facilitators and key opportunities for change.