



Ontario College
of Pharmacists
Putting patients first since 1871

PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS: *What Can They Do For Me?*

Did you know there can be many people that work in your pharmacy?

It's important to know the role they each can play to support your care. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are regulated health professionals in Ontario. Learn about what they can do for you as a pharmacy patient.



PHARMACISTS

- ✓ Make sure your prescription is the right drug and dosage to best treat your condition
- ✓ Make sure your prescription does not negatively interact with any allergies you may have, other medication you're taking, or your other medical condition(s)
- ✓ Counsel you on potential side effects of your medication and how to take it properly, including demonstrating how to inject insulin or use your new inhaler
- ✓ Provide a medication review, ideal for patients taking multiple medications at once, where your pharmacist reviews all of your medications with you and ensures you know how to take them correctly
- ✓ Administer by injection specific vaccines to you and your family members (e.g., flu shot for ages two years and older, and COVID-19 vaccine for ages six months and older^[1])
- ✓ Prescribe certain medications for specific minor ailments
- ✓ Prescribe certain medications to help you quit smoking and offer ongoing monitoring and support
- ✓ Renew your prescription, when appropriate, in between regular prescriber's visits to help manage your care^[2]
- ✓ Adapt your prescription, when appropriate, which can include changing your medication from a capsule to a liquid, adjusting the dose, and changing how often you take it
- ✓ Administer certain point of care tests

PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

- ✓ Make sure that you are dispensed the correct medication and quantity
- ✓ Make sure that all of the information on your prescription label is correct, including your name, the prescriber, and the directions
- ✓ Update and maintain your patient profile or health record to ensure it's up-to-date at all times
- ✓ Teach you how to use medical devices, such as an inhaler spacing device and blood glucose meter
- ✓ Administer by injection specific vaccines to you and your family members (e.g., flu shot for ages two years and older, and COVID-19 vaccine for ages six months and older^[1])
- ✓ Accept authorization from your prescriber to renew your prescription
- ✓ Accept verbal authorization from your prescriber for your prescription^[3]
- ✓ Authorize transfers for prescriptions^[4]
- ✓ Administer certain point of care tests

1. Applies to pharmacies participating in Ontario's Universal Influenza Immunization Program
2. Excludes controlled substances (narcotics, controlled drugs, benzodiazepines and other targeted substances)
3. Cannot accept verbal Rx for narcotics, controlled drugs, benzodiazepines or other targeted substances
4. Cannot authorize transfers for benzodiazepines or other targeted substances

Patients are encouraged to speak to their pharmacy professional to find out what healthcare services they offer and whether they are right for their needs. Some pharmacies also employ Pharmacy Assistants. These staff are part of the pharmacy team and may have their own specific duties but are not regulated health professionals and are not registered with the College.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about what pharmacists and other members of the pharmacy team are qualified to do.

You can also visit our [Find a Pharmacy/ Pharmacy Professional Tool](#), also known as a public register, to learn more about your pharmacy professional including their qualifications, languages spoken and other information to help you make an informed decision as a patient.