

JUNE 2020 BOARD MEETING

As recorded following the Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meeting held on June 15th, 2020.

This meeting was held via video and teleconference in consideration of provincial directives and social distancing measures recommended by Public Health due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BOARD RECOGNIZES PHARMACY PROFESSIONALS FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Board Chair opened the meeting by offering acknowledgment and gratitude on behalf of the Board, Committees and staff to all of the pharmacy professionals of Ontario for their ongoing efforts to provide safe, quality care despite the unprecedented challenges and realities of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEW PUBLIC MEMBER APPOINTED TO BOARD

The Board welcomed the newest public member, Devinder Walia, to the College. Ms. Walia has been appointed to the Discipline and ICRC Committees.

REGULATION AMENDMENTS TO ENABLE EXPANDED SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR PHARMACISTS

The Board reviewed the final regulatory amendments to enable pharmacist prescribing for certain minor ailments subsequent to the latest open consultation on the regulations which closed in late May. The consultation gathered input from registrants, health system partners, other health professions and patients throughout the regulatory drafting process.

Following their review of the feedback received through the consultation and the final changes made to the draft regulations, the Board unanimously approved the regulations to move forward for submission to the Ministry of Health by June 30, 2020.

MANDATORY EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIBING FOR MINOR AILMENTS

In order to support the proposed amendments to the regulation to enable pharmacists to prescribe for certain minor ailments, the College is developing a comprehensive implementation plan which includes identifying the appropriate educational requirements to support safe and consistent implementation of the regulatory changes.

The Board approved the development of education to ensure pharmacists fully understand their ethical, legal and professional obligations of prescribing for minor ailments while meeting standards of practice. The education will:

- be mandatory for all part A pharmacists,
- come at no cost to the registrant,
- not exceed two hours in length,
- be required to be completed within one year of its availability, and
- need to be completed before engaging in any prescribing.

The mandatory education requirement **does not apply to clinical training**. The College will continue to expect that pharmacists who engage in this new authority, once approved by government, will have the required knowledge, skills and judgement to do so safely and ethically and in accordance with the Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, and all relevant regulations. There was also discussion regarding the possible addition of a requirement for an attestation

related to clinical competence. An update on expanded scope will be brought forward to an upcoming Board meeting.

It is important to note that while other pieces of legislation, such as the *Public Hospitals Act*, may impact the ability of some pharmacists to practice to the full extent of this new authority, the regulations apply to the profession as a whole and are not specific to areas of practice.

COLLEGE'S REGULATORY ROLE AND RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As part of the Registrar's report, the Board received a comprehensive update on the measures the College has taken to maintain its operations and support the profession in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Full details can be reviewed in the report provided in Appendix 8 of the [Board materials](#).

RESPONDING TO SYSTEMIC RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION IN OUR SOCIETY

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board acknowledged the impact of systemic racism and discrimination in our society. It subsequently approved a recommendation to work collaboratively with our academic partners to better understand how the student body in our professional schools represents our population, specifically as it relates to Black and Indigenous communities. Read the College's statement, [A Shared Responsibility to Reflect, to Learn and to Act](#).

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Monday, September 21, 2020. Special Board meetings may be called at any time. Please see our website for information on upcoming

Board meetings. Board meetings are open to the public and are typically held in the Board Chambers of the College at 483 Huron Street, Toronto, ON, M5R 2R4. Due to public health measures currently in place, Board meetings are being held virtually until further notice. If you plan to attend an in-person meeting or for more information, please contact Ms. Sarah MacDougall, Board and Committee Liaison at boardofdirectors@ocpinfo.com. Links for those who wish to observe a virtual meeting will be posted with meeting agendas. You can also follow highlights from the Board meetings via Twitter.