



**Ontario College
of Pharmacists**

Putting patients first since 1871

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 27, 2021
8:00AM**

- 1. Noting Members Present**
- 2. Declaration of Conflict**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. For Decision**
 - 4.1. Briefing Note – Pharmacy Technician Administration of Influenza Vaccine and Extension of Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) Section 56(1) Exemption
- 5. Adjournment**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 – 8:00 A.M.

HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Elected Members

Mr. Douglas Brown, Port Perry
Mr. Billy Cheung, Markham
Ms. Sara Ingram, North York
Mr. James Morrison, Burlington
Mr. Goran Petrovic, Kitchener
Ms. Tracey Phillips, Westport
Ms. Ruth-Ann Plaxton, Owen Sound
Mr. Siva Sivapalan, Burlington
Mr. Wilfred Steer, Sudbury

Dr. Lisa Dolovich, Dean, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto
Dr. Andrea Edginton, Hallman Director, School of Pharmacy, University of Waterloo

Members Appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council

Mr. Stephen Adams, London
Mr. Randy Baker, Toronto
Mr. David Breukelman, Burlington
Ms. Christine Henderson, Toronto
Ms. Elnora Magboo, Brampton
Mr. Rick Phillips, London
Mr. Dan Stapleton, Toronto
Mr. Gene Szabo, Kanata
Ms. Cindy Wagg, Oakville
Ms. Devinder Walia, Etobicoke

Staff present

Ms. Susan James, Acting Registrar & Director, Quality
Ms. Connie Campbell, Interim Chief Operating Officer & Director, Corporate Services
Ms. Angela Bates, Director, Conduct
Ms. Sarah MacDougall, Board and Committee Liaison
Ms. Stephenie Summerhill, Executive Assistant to the CEO & Registrar

Regrets:

None

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. and was held virtually over Microsoft Teams.

1. Noting Members Present

All Board Directors were in attendance and a quorum was present, the Chair declared the meeting to be properly constituted.

2. Declaration of Conflict

Mr. Cheung asked for declarations of conflict. There were none.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Chair noted the emergent nature of the topic to be considered at the Ministry's request and that the seven-day notice period of meetings was subsequently waived. The Board discussed that in the circumstances of special meetings, every endeavour is made to ensure the timely circulation of meeting materials to allow Directors to properly consider the background information. A motion to waive the notice period was moved and seconded. **The motion CARRIED.**

A motion to approve the agenda was moved and seconded. **The motion CARRIED.**

4. For Decision

4.1 Briefing Note – Pharmacy Technician Administration of Influenza Vaccine and Extension of CDSA Section 56(1) Exemption

Ms. James informed the Board that on October 25, 2021 the College received a letter from the Ministry of Health asking the College to prepare amendments to the regulations to allow pharmacy technicians to administer influenza vaccines. Ms. James also indicated that the Ministry had asked these amended regulations be submitted as soon as possible to support the provincial reopening strategy.

Additionally Ms. James confirmed that the proposed regulations submitted would also include the extension of the exemption that authorizes pharmacists to renew or adapt existing prescriptions for Controlled Drugs and Substances.

The Board questioned if the proposed changes to the regulation allowing pharmacy technicians to provide influenza vaccine injections were temporary. Ms. James clarified that the changes were permanent. There was discussion that to date only one in six pharmacy technicians had chosen to complete the required approved injection training. It was discussed that the role and scope of pharmacy technicians is at the discretion of the employer. It is anticipated that this change to the regulation will most likely result in a significant uptake in the number of individuals interested in completing the training and that approved training is widely available to accommodate the increase in demand.

The Board discussed the decision to recommend instead of mandate that pharmacy technicians have valid certification in CPR and First Aid. It was confirmed that as soon as there is consistent access to the training, which has been impacted by the pandemic, that the injection policy will be updated such that certifications will be mandatory upon renewal of registration for all registrants administering injections, most likely in 2023.

The Board questioned if pharmacy technicians would be permitted to provide the influenza vaccines to children between the ages of two and five. Ms. James indicated that the scope for technicians would include children aged two and older. The guidance from the College to pharmacy technicians will mirror the guidance provided to pharmacists, which includes a recommendation to undertake additional continuing education if they wish to increase their comfort in administering the flu vaccine to young children.

The motions were then read and moved and seconded.

The motion: That the Board approve the proposed changes to General Regulation 202/94 under the Pharmacy Act, 1991 (Attachment 3 and 4) to allow for pharmacy technicians to administer the flu vaccine and the extension of the existing regulatory amendments enabling implementation of Health Canada’s Subsection 56(1) class exemption for controlled substances.

That the Board seek approval by the Minister of Health to waive or abridge the requirement for a 60-day public consultation period for the proposed regulation changes.

The motion CARRIED.

The Board discussed the impact of the changes being considered today both from the lens of patient care and safety and the significance of allowing pharmacy technicians to work to their full scope. The Board indicated its gratitude to College staff for the effort to compile the information for the Board’s consideration in such a tight timeline.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and ended the meeting. The Board will reconvene on Monday December 13, 2021 or at the call of the Chair.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, **the meeting ended at 11:47 a.m.**

Sarah MacDougall
Board & Committee Liaison

Billy B. Cheung
Board Chair