

**Ministry of Health**

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**Ministère de la Santé**

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March 10, 2023

Mr. James Morrison  
Chair, Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacists  
Ontario College of Pharmacists  
483 Huron Street  
Toronto ON M5R 2R4

Dear Mr. Morrison,

Earlier this month, the Ontario Government released [\*Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care\*](#). The plan focuses on providing people with a better health care experience by connecting them to more convenient options closer to home while shortening wait times for key services across the province and growing the health care workforce for years to come. Part of this plan includes maximizing the expertise of our health care workforce by expanding scopes of practice.

Throughout the last few years, pharmacists have played a critical role in supporting patients across the province by supporting COVID-19 efforts, educating patients about medication and treatment options, and more recently prescribing for certain minor ailments. We are committed to continuing to expand the role of pharmacists so Ontarians can continue to connect to care closer to home and at a local pharmacy.

Recognizing the integral role that pharmacists play in helping us to achieve these commitments, I would like the Council of the Ontario College of Pharmacists (College) to continue work in the short term to make regulations that would enable pharmacists to prescribe any the remaining six minor ailments that were previously recommended by the Minor Ailment Advisory Group (MAAG) and approved by the Board in 2020. Given the ongoing pressures on our health system and the College's advance preparation for this group of ailments, I would appreciate it if you moved forward on this with the highest priority.

Additionally, recognizing that more can be done to maximize the expertise of pharmacists, I would like the College to re-engage the MAAG to explore the addition of further minor ailments, including those that may require additional scope of practice expansions to support safe and effective prescribing. I would like the College and the MAAG to develop recommendations for my review for November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

I understand that there may be the need to place parameters on the prescribing of certain minor ailments. We know the College will ensure pharmacists are providing competent and safe, high-quality care when performing these activities which will include an analysis of the best regulatory approach to ensuring competency and transparency.

Thank you for your work in protecting the public interest by promoting safe pharmacy practice and your continued support of these key government initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Jones', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sylvia Jones  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

- c: Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
- Dr. Karima Velji, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief of Nursing and Professional Practice
- Patrick Dicherni, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Programs and Delivery Division
- Allison Henry, Director, Health Workforce Regulatory Oversight Branch
- Angie Wong, Director, Drug Programs Strategy and Policy Branch
- Shenda Tanchak, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Ontario College of Pharmacists