

JUNE 2023

BOARD MEETING

As recorded at the Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meeting held on June 12, 2023. This meeting was hosted in-person at the College and virtually via MS Teams.

BOARD APPROVES CONSULTATION ON EXPANDED SCOPE REGULATORY AMENDMENTS

Board also approves the subsequent submission of the regulations to the Ministry of Health following consultation

The Board approved a 60-day open consultation on proposed regulatory amendments that would expand the scope of pharmacy professionals to administer additional vaccines and offer appropriate treatment options for COVID-19 and influenza. These regulatory changes, recognize that the Ontario healthcare system continues to see additional pressures that may impact patient access to care, particularly in light of a potential surge of influenza, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and COVID-19 later this fall. The proposed amendments would:

- give pharmacists and pharmacy technicians authority to administer the RSV vaccine
- give pharmacy technicians authority to administer vaccines from [Schedule 3](#)
- give pharmacists authority to prescribe oseltamivir (Tamiflu)
- remove age restrictions for administration of influenza and other [Schedule 3](#) vaccines by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- transition authority for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to administer the COVID-19 vaccine and for pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid from the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)*, *Controlled Acts Regulation (107/96)* to the *Pharmacy Act*, *General Regulation (202/94)*.

Please visit the [consultation page](#) on the College website to share your feedback on the expanded scope regulatory amendments by August 12, 2023.

Following the public consultation, the proposed regulatory amendments will be submitted to the Ministry of Health unless the Board Chair determines that there are substantive changes required that would necessitate the regulation be brought back to the Board for approval. Further details about this expansion of scope, which will also require government approval before coming into effect, are available starting on page 97 of the [Board meeting materials](#).

EMERGENCY ASSIGNMENT CLASS PROVISIONS APPROVED

Following a 30-day open consultation, the Board approved registration regulation amendments that support consistency across health professions and codify the circumstances that would initiate activation of the College's emergency assignment (EA) class of registration when it is determined to be in the public interest. The amendments to *General Regulation 202/94* under the *Pharmacy Act, 1991* include provisions that allow:

- issuance of EA certificates to be triggered by government or the Board when it is determined to be in the public interest
- a renewal period for EA class certificate holders to transition to another class of registration and avoid unnecessary service delivery interruptions at the conclusion of issuance of EA class certificates
- an EA certificate holder to apply for another class of registration
- the exemption of fees for applicants transitioning from an EA class certificate to another class of registration.

The proposed amendments, which do not affect the currently issued EA class certificates, will be submitted to the Ministry of Health and require government approval before coming into effect. Further details are available starting on page 76 of the [Board meeting materials](#).

NUMBER OF ELECTED DIRECTORS MAINTAINED

There are currently nine elected directors and 10 publicly appointed directors (in addition to two academic appointments) on the OCP Board. After considering whether to increase the number of elected directors to correspond to the number of publicly appointed directors, which can vary year-to-year, the Board decided to maintain the current number of elected directors. This does not impact the scheduled Board elections which will commence in July. Details about the motion to consider an increase to the number of elected directors can be found on page 161 of the [Board meeting materials](#).

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Maintaining transparency and reporting on performance align with two of the College's current strategic priorities: to strengthen trust and confidence in the College's role as a patients-first regulator, and to enhance capacity to address emerging opportunities and advance quality and safe pharmacy practice and regulatory excellence. The Board was provided with an update on the College's Q1 Performance Scorecard, which is used to monitor the

College's performance throughout the year, as well as the 2023 Mid-Year Risk Report which identifies, assesses and addresses major risks to mitigate potential threats that could prevent the College from executing its statutory mandate and achieving its strategic goals and objectives. Additional information about both the Performance Scorecard and Mid-Year Risk Report are available starting on page 54 of the [Board meeting materials](#).

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The Registrar and CEO provided an update to the Board on recent operational activities at the College, part of a standing agenda item that helps the Board fulfill its oversight role. The report included information about the College's people and culture, government and legislative/regulatory changes, environmental scans of the regulatory space across Canada, the acquisition of a new College database (CRM), and efforts to begin preliminary operational planning in support of the Board's Strategic Plan. Full details of the Registrar's Report begin on page 24 of the [Board meeting materials](#).

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Board meetings are open to the public, and the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 18 and 19, 2023. Special Board meetings may be called at any time. Please see our website for information on [upcoming Board meetings](#). Highlights from the Board meetings are also shared via Twitter.

PRIDE MONTH, INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE AND EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY UPDATE

Board Chair James Morrison and Jacq Hixson-Vulpe, the College's Strategic Advisor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), led a presentation about Pride Month, the barriers facing 2SLGBTQ+ patients, and ways pharmacy professionals, the Board and College staff can use inclusive language to provide safe, welcoming spaces.

The Board was also given an update on the College's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and action plans, all of which support the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan with specific alignment to Goal #4: "The College uses our regulatory

authority and influence to drive positive change in pharmacy practice towards ensuring all patients are treated with respect and without discrimination." Highlights included primary research conducted by staff, an organizational self-assessment using a toolkit developed by the Health Profession Regulators of Ontario (HPRO), and the addition of dedicated staff resources in the budget to provide overall direction and ensure an intentional approach to the organization's EDI work. Further details of the EDI Strategy and the update to the Board are available starting on page 73 of the [Board meeting materials](#).