



SASKATCHEWAN
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
PROFESSIONALS



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DATE: June 16, 2023

TO: SCPP Practising and Non-Practising Members, Students and Interns

FROM: Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals

RE: Proposed Expanded SCOPE of Practice Announcement

Dear Members,

SCPP Council President Amy Wiebe has been invited by the Ministry of Health to be present for and speak during the Honourable Mr. Merriman's press conference regarding a new initiative within the Health Human Resources Action Plan. The initiative revolves around expanding and optimizing the scope of practice for three health professions: pharmacists, paramedics, and nurse practitioners. The news conference is scheduled for June 16 at 10 am.

This communication is to make you aware of the press conference and keep you informed of the proposed timelines as we move through the process of new bylaws, policies, training, and implementation. We also appreciate that due to the press release, you may begin to receive questions from your patients and possibly the media.

While SCPP's current bylaws enable many functions for pharmacists, there are still some barriers to address within our bylaws and other provincial regulations that limit pharmacists from practising to their optimal scope which, at times, impacts patient access to necessary medications and services. As you are aware, pharmacists have expert knowledge on medication management and, as such, can play a larger role in supporting the needs of the public should they have the **required competencies, resources, and capacity** to do so safely within their practice environment.

Many of you, as well as various other health care stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch, medSask, Continuing Professional Development for Pharmacy Professionals (CPDPP), the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan, and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan had the opportunity to participate in consultations for amendments to Part K and M of the Bylaws to support expanding and optimizing the scope of practice for pharmacists. The Bylaws have been submitted to the Minister and we are awaiting formal approval.

At the direction of Council, the College is working with CPDPP to build out education sessions to support members to understand and be able to apply the new bylaw changes within their practice.

We anticipate a high-level overview training of Part K followed by detailed education on Parts K and M as sections become ready to be enacted, which will also depend on our stakeholders.

More details will follow; however, we are anticipating the first round of education to occur in November to ensure members are able to manage the bulk of influenza/COVID immunizations this fall, and a grace period will be enabled for any changes and implementations that might be required in practice such as workflow, policies and procedures.

The education in November would be focused on the new authorities that would be enabled for all pharmacists (Level I Prescribing Authority).

Level II Authority, which includes pharmacist-initiated prescribing, ordering of lab tests, and conducting point-of-care testing still require regulation amendments by external stakeholders, the creation of education modules around prescribing competencies, the completion of lab training and education modules, as well as updating and creating policies and systems updates both internal and external to SCPP. We anticipate these items to roll out throughout 2024 and beyond.

The amendments to the bylaws and successful implementation will be a significant undertaking and will impact all members and many of our stakeholders within the health care system and academia. **Thus, while we expect the bylaws to be approved anytime between now and early August, it does not mean they are in force. The College will communicate to members when portions of the bylaws are officially enacted and in force and until such time, pharmacists' scope of practice remains status quo.**

Further details on the roll-out of expanded services are in progress as we work together with key stakeholders to establish effective policies, including the required training and competencies.

SCPP has created a [landing page](#), where we will be posting information to provide one single location for members and the public to obtain updates.

Please see these links below which may be helpful to you if you need more information:

- [Executive Summary of Bylaw Amendments Submitted to the Ministry](#)
- [Overview of Proposed Changes](#)

We understand these are historic and exciting changes in pharmacy in Saskatchewan. Members are asked to hold onto their questions which will be welcome during the education and Q-and-A sessions. This will ensure office resources can be prioritized efficiently.

Please stay tuned for emails and announcements in the coming months.

Sincerely,

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