CAPhO Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology

About CAPhO

The Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology works to promote, support, and advance the practice of oncology pharmacy practice through research, mentorship, and educational opportunities for members. Our members are pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy assistants who deliver crucial services to all people affected by cancer in Canada.

Oncology Pharmacy in Canada

Canadians deserve equitable access to safe, high-quality cancer care, regardless of where they live or the reliability of global drug supply chains. However, significant disparities in access to care and ongoing vulnerabilities in the supply of essential cancer medicines continue to threaten patient outcomes and place increasing strain on the healthcare system.

CAPhO is calling on the Federal Government to:

1. Strengthen Canada's Oncology Drug Supply

Many of the mainstays of cancer treatment do not have patent protection but have a limited number of suppliers and few or no therapeutic alternatives. As a result, shortages can quickly compromise access to life-saving treatment and create inequities in cancer care across Canada. **CAPhO calls on the Federal Government to develop a National Oncology Drug Supply Security Action Plan.**

2. Expand and Improve Cancer Care that is Proactive and Closer to Home

There has been an explosion of new virtual models of healthcare delivery that allow Canadians to receive care closer to home. Expanding local treatment support, virtual care and community based screening can improve access, enable earlier diagnosis, reduce travel burdens and support better patient outcomes. **CAPhO calls on the Goverment to invest in community-based oncology services, including pharmacist-led, nurse-led, virtual and multidisciplinary care models that bring specialized cancer care directly to rural, remote and Indigenous communities.**

3. Support Culturally Safe and Virtually Enabled Cancer Care

Integration of cultural practices and understanding lowers barriers to accessing healthcare. People affected by cancer are in a particularly vulnerable position and need appropriate supports from diagnosis through survivorship. **CAPhO calls on the Government to invest in cancer models that integrate Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, patient navigators into healthcare teams.**

> A strong, sovereign Canada has to be able to care for its own people. That means a secure supply of essential cancer medicines that doesn't depend on a few foreign suppliers and care network that reaches patients where they live. CAPhO is ready to work with parliamentarians to build that capacity here at home so that everyone in Canada living with cancer can get the treatment they need, when they need it.



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