

## CAPhO Position Statement: Oncology Pharmacist Full Scope of Practice

Pharmacists practicing in oncology work collaboratively as part of the multi-disciplinary team with physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals in a variety of practice settings. Recognizing that pharmacists' scope of practice in Canada differs by jurisdiction<sup>1</sup>, CAPhO supports oncology pharmacists to work to full scope as defined by their regulatory authority, and advocates for jurisdictions to expand scope where needed so that pharmacists may deliver the best quality of care to people with cancer.

Evidence for the provision of oncology pharmacy clinical services in Canadian settings is plentiful and includes better symptom control, enhanced patient experience, redistribution of workload from other healthcare professionals, enhanced job satisfaction, and improved patient safety and quality of care<sup>2-16</sup>.

CAPhO's Competencies for Oncology Pharmacists in Canada<sup>17</sup> provide guidance on the optimal practice of oncology pharmacists and highlight examples of full or expanded scope clinical activities that pharmacists may participate in to improve patient care, including:

- Prescribing, holding, discontinuing, re-starting, adapting and modifying anticancer drug therapies and associated supportive care medications.
- Taking appropriate action for therapy adjustments (through recommendations, referral, consultation, adaptation, or prescribing) whenever an opportunity to improve treatment efficacy, safety, or adherence is identified.
- Providing recommendations regarding vaccinations and immunizing.
- Ordering, receiving and interpreting laboratory tests.

Supporting oncology pharmacists to practice to full scope, and advocating for expanded scope where needed, is an important step towards improving patient care and is an integral part of CAPhO's Vision, "*Leading and advancing oncology pharmacy in Canada*" and Mission, "*CAPhO promotes, supports and advances oncology pharmacy practice to improve the lives of people affected by cancer in Canada*"<sup>18</sup>.

### References

1. Canadian Pharmacists Association. Pharmacists' scope of practice in Canada. Updated February 2025. Accessible online from: <https://www.pharmacists.ca/advocacy/scope-of-practice/>
2. Taylor TL, Dupuis LL, Nicksy D, Girvan C. (1999). Clinical pharmacy services in a pediatric hematology/oncology clinic: A description and assessment. *Can J Hosp Pharm.* 1999; 52(1), 18–23.
3. Delaney L, Chambers C, Roldán G, De Robles P, Cairncross G, Forsyth P, Easaw J. A feasibility study to assess the integration of a pharmacist into neurooncology clinic. *J Oncol Pharm Pract.* 2009 Jun;15(2):79-85. doi: 10.1177/1078155208099281. Epub 2008 Nov 26.
4. Pituskin E, Fairchild A, Dutka J, Gagnon L, Driga A, Tachynski P, Borschneck JA, Ghosh S. Multidisciplinary team contributions within a dedicated outpatient palliative radiotherapy clinic: a prospective descriptive study. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys.* 2010 Oct 1;78(2):527-32. doi: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2009.07.1698. Epub 2010 Jan 25.
5. Gagnon L, Fairchild A, Pituskin E, Dutka J, Chambers C. Optimizing pain relief in a specialized outpatient palliative radiotherapy clinic: contributions of a clinical pharmacist. *J Oncol Pharm Pract.* 2012 Mar;18(1):76-83. doi: 10.1177/1078155211402104. Epub 2011 Apr 13.
6. Ryan N, Chambers C, Ralph C, England D, Cusano F. Evaluation of clinical pharmacists' follow-up service in an oncology pain clinic. *J Oncol Pharm Pract.* 2013 Jun;19(2):151-8. doi: 10.1177/1078155212457805. Epub 2012 Sep 27.

7. Ho L, Akada K, Messner H, Kuruvilla J, Wright J, Seki JT. Pharmacist's Role in Improving Medication Safety for Patients in an Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplant Ambulatory Clinic. *Can J Hosp Pharm*. 2013 Mar;66(2):110-7. doi: 10.4212/cjhp.v66i2.1233.
8. Edwards SJ, Abbott R, Edwards J, LeBlanc M, Dranitsaris G, Donnan J, Laing K, Whelan MA, MacKinnon NJ. Outcomes assessment of a pharmacist-directed seamless care program in an ambulatory oncology clinic. *J Pharm Pract*. 2014 Feb;27(1):46-52. doi: 10.1177/0897190013504954. Epub 2013 Sep 24.
9. Defoe KD, Jupp J, Leslie T. Integration of clinical pharmacists into an ambulatory, pediatric hematology/oncology/transplant clinic. *J Oncol Pharm Pract*. 2019 Apr;25(3):607-612. doi: 10.1177/1078155217752534. Epub 2018 Feb 16.
10. Sun C, Chow R, Sousa P, DeAngelis C, Charbonneau F, Chan S, Pasetka M. Review of a pharmacist-led telephone follow-up program for ambulatory patients receiving chemotherapy at a tertiary cancer centre. *J Pain Manag*. 2018;11(2), 171–179.
11. Myers G, Stevens J, Flewelling A, Richard J, London M. Evaluation and clinical impact of a pharmacist-led, interdisciplinary service focusing on education, monitoring and toxicity management of immune checkpoint inhibitors. *J Oncol Pharm Pract*. 2023 Jan;29(1):145-154. doi: 10.1177/10781552211061133. Epub 2021 Nov 30.
12. Marineau A, St-Pierre C, Lessard-Hurtubise R, David MÈ, Adam JP, Chabot I. Cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor treatment use in women treated for advanced breast cancer: Integrating ASCO/NCODA patient-centered standards in a community pharmacy. *J Oncol Pharm Pract*. 2023 Jul;29(5):1144-1153. doi: 10.1177/10781552221102884. Epub 2022 May 31.
13. Hynes K, Folkman F, Dersch-Mills D, Marin H, Ghosh S, Chambers C. Prescribing practices of oncology pharmacists working in ambulatory cancer centers in Alberta. *J Oncol Pharm Pract*. 2023 Dec;29(8):1965-1973. doi: 10.1177/10781552231162012. Epub 2023 Mar 9.
14. Goh E, Labelle S, Chan A. Implementation and evaluation of a shared care model between oncologists and pharmacists for breast cancer patients at a Canadian regional ambulatory cancer centre. *J Oncol Pharm Pract*. 2024 Jun;30(4):622-627. doi: 10.1177/10781552231179190. Epub 2023 May 31.
15. Underhill H, LeBlanc M, Macfarlane R, Hutton L. Using quality improvement frameworks to develop, implement, and evaluate a novel ambulatory oncology pharmacy practice model: A descriptive example. *Am J Health Syst Pharm*. 2024 Dec 5;81(24):1297-1304. doi: 10.1093/ajhp/zxae184.
16. de Boer A, McCaw C, Ackman M, Leslie T, Peters A, Koshman S. Evaluating the impact of a pharmacist-led venetoclax ramp-up clinic for chronic lymphocytic leukemia patients: A retrospective chart review. *J Oncol Pharm Pract*. 2025 Mar 21;10781552251324522. doi: 10.1177/10781552251324522. Epub ahead of print.
17. Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology. Competencies for Oncology Pharmacists in Canada. 2024. Accessed online from: <https://www.capho.org/resources/competencies-oncology-pharmacists-canada>
18. Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology. CAPhO Strategic Plan 2025-2028. Accessible online from: [https://www.capho.org/sites/default/files/assets/file/media\\_file/CAPhO%20Strategic%20Plan%202025%20to%202028.pdf](https://www.capho.org/sites/default/files/assets/file/media_file/CAPhO%20Strategic%20Plan%202025%20to%202028.pdf)