

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 jurisdiction¹, CPhO 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 ²⁻¹⁶.

CAPhO's Competencies for Oncology Pharmacists in Canada¹⁷ 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 CPhO'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*"¹⁸.

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