Policy Statement for Manitoba Pharmacists

The Issue:

Today, Manitoba’s pharmacists have the training and regulatory authority to provide health care services well beyond traditional drug dispensing. Pharmacists can, for example, provide counselling, prescribe for self-limiting conditions such as mild eczema or acne, adapt prescriptions, and administer injections. Moreover, as our population ages and physician workloads increase, pharmacists provide a viable alternative to physicians in the diagnosis and treatment for many minor ailments.

Public funding for pharmacy services will reduce waiting times in clinics and provide an accessible health care alternative for Manitobans, including those living in rural areas where accessing physicians after hours or during weekends can be challenging.

What It Means:

1. Funded pharmacy services will reduce medication errors, hospitalizations and make primary health care more accessible for Manitoba families.
2. More Manitobans are taking care of both aging parents and young children. For many, a pharmacist is the first line of health care and often more accessible than doctors who are under increasing pressure given the demands of our aging population.
3. Most other provinces in Canada provide public funding for a comprehensive range of pharmacy services which has improved access to primary care for the residents of those provinces.

Where We Stand:

1. To alleviate pressure on time constrained and more costly primary health care alternatives, the Manitoba Pharmacare program should provide beneficiary coverage for the following pharmacy services: medication reviews; assessment and prescribing for minor ailments; smoking cessation services; immunizations; and, prescription adaptation and renewals.
2. Professional fees for provision of these services should be on par with the national average for similar services being delivered in other provinces.
3. All provincial political parties and candidates should pledge their support for publically funded pharmacy services.
What You Can Do: (For Pharmacists)

1. Host one or more candidates running in this year’s provincial election for a local pharmacy tour, and discuss with them the contribution pharmacy makes to health care.

2. Send a letter to the candidates running in your constituency using the Pharmacists Manitoba electronic letter writing tool available on [our website](#).

3. Become a Pharmacist Manitoba advocate, and use your Twitter and Facebook to spread the word, or download Health Care on Demand materials and distribute them at your pharmacy.

What You Can Do: (For General Public)

1. Visit [healthcareondemandmb.com](http://healthcareondemandmb.com) to let the candidates in your riding know that you agree that Manitoba should include pharmacist services as a government funded program.