

# The Value of

## Expanded Community Pharmacy Services

- Decision-makers are concerned about the value-for-money achieved in funding health care.
- Community pharmacists are doing more than ever before: pharmacists today can help meet the growing demand for convenient, accessible, and cost-effective health care services.
- A three-part research series by The Conference Board of Canada reviews the evidence in support of community pharmacy services, models the health and economic impact of three services — smoking cessation, advanced medication review for heart disease and pneumococcal vaccination — that are currently delivered within a community pharmacy setting, and makes recommendations on how to get the most out of community pharmacy.<sup>1</sup>



## Key Findings

- Expanding selected pharmacy services would translate to direct cost savings for governments, and prevent chronic disease and premature deaths.
- **By 2035, Canada-wide implementation of three pharmacy services could yield cumulative cost savings (including direct health care costs and indirect costs from increased productivity) between \$2.5 billion and \$25.7 billion, and a large return on investment.**
- Reimbursement must be sustainable and reflective of the value of expanding pharmacy services to achieve maximum value.

## Recommendations for Action

- Provide Canadians with services at the right time and in the most cost-effective way.
- Facilitate increased coverage for Canadians currently without access, as well as improve the timeliness of care.
- Provide support for pharmacists to expand their scope of practice where community needs are present.
- Adopt a funding structure that ensures accessible, patient-centric, high-quality and cost-effective services.
- Optimize the use of technology, physical space, and other infrastructure and environmental supports to facilitate medication use and improve collaboration with other primary care providers.
- Adopt and implement a quality standards framework to ensure measurable and accountable quality care.

<sup>1</sup> This research was funded by the Canadian Pharmacists Association.





## Smoking Cessation

- Community pharmacists can help people quit smoking.
- Pharmacists everywhere can help patients make a quit plan and, in some provinces, they can prescribe drugs to help patients quit smoking.

Return on Investment (for every \$ invested over the forecast period) **\$9.10**

Economic Benefits

**\$563 million to \$5.6 billion**

Cases Averted

**28,575 – 651,681**

Deaths Prevented

**4,827 – 48,054**



## Advanced Medication Review for Heart Disease

- Patients with heart disease can reduce their risk of high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol.
- Advanced medication reviews include a patient assessment, blood test, a risk assessment for heart disease, and education.
- Pharmacists provide treatment recommendations, including adapting medications when necessary.

Return on Investment (for every \$ invested over the forecast period) **\$2.30**

Economic Benefits

**\$1.9 billion to \$19.3 billion**

Cases Averted

**255,852 – 2,543,638**

Deaths Prevented

**10,524 – 104,640**



## Pneumococcal Vaccination for Seniors

- Pneumococcal disease is caused by bacteria that can lead to life-threatening infections such as meningitis and pneumonia.
- Seniors over the age of 65 are at greater risk.
- The pneumococcal vaccine reduces the risk of pneumococcal disease in seniors, and can be safely administered by a community pharmacist in most provinces.

Return on Investment (for every \$ invested over the forecast period) **\$72.00**

Economic Benefits

**\$206 million to \$761 million**

Cases Averted

**11,161 – 41,315**

Deaths Prevented

**1,047 – 3,874**

## Pharmacists: Well Positioned to Fill the Care Gap

- Pharmacists are Canada's most trusted and accessible health care providers.
- On average, people see their pharmacist five to seven times more often than their family doctor.
- Pharmacists work with the patient and their physicians to improve care as members of a patient-centred team.
- When pharmacists practice to their full scope, health improvements and cost savings result.
- The infrastructure for expanded pharmacy services already exists; now we must expand pharmacists' scope of practice and incentivize them appropriately to provide this care.

For more information: [www.pharmacists.ca/valueofpharmacy](http://www.pharmacists.ca/valueofpharmacy)



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