Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Alberta Branch (CSHP-AB) and Alberta Pharmacists’ Association (RxA) Joint Statement Regarding Providing Seamless Care to Albertans

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Alberta Branch (CSHP-AB) and the Alberta Pharmacists’ Association (RxA) support collaboration and seamless care among Alberta pharmacists in all practice environments to better the health of Albertans. This includes the sharing of medication information between practitioners when a patient is either admitted to or discharged from a healthcare institution (e.g., hospital, long-term care facility). Seamless care is defined as: “the desirable continuity of care delivered to a patient in the health care system across the spectrum of caregivers and their environments. Pharmaceutical care is carried out without interruption such that when one pharmacist ceases to be responsible for the patient’s care, another pharmacist or health care professional accepts responsibility for the patient’s care.”¹ Seamless care facilitates optimal medication management by ensuring continuation of therapy, the shared understanding of care plans, focuses follow up to help achieve the patient’s desired therapeutic outcomes, and enhances communication with the patient about his or her medications, ultimately optimising safe and effective drug therapy. Furthermore, this process helps foster relationships and promotes collegiality among all pharmacists.

Albertans receive care from pharmacists and other healthcare providers across a continuum of care including community, hospital, and other practice environments. As patients move from one point in the continuum to another, the sharing of patient treatment information among healthcare providers becomes paramount. Information gaps can lead to drug therapy problems², and to patient safety incidents. The risk of information gaps is heightened at transition points; proper coordination of care must occur amongst healthcare providers. Continuity of care through collaboration among pharmacists and with other healthcare providers can reduce adverse outcomes and improve the health of patients.

As the practice of pharmacy evolves, through our continued partnership we hope to advance collaboration among all pharmacists in Alberta to optimize seamless care and ultimately improve the health of Albertans.

References