



The Enhancement of the Scopes of Pharmacists' Practice: A Comparative Analysis of the Regulatory Frameworks in Saskatchewan and Ontario

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Outline

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Background



- ▶ Team-based care has become an integral part of primary health care reform (Sargeant, Loney and Murphy 2008).
- ▶ Various provinces have implemented policies to enhance the scopes of practice of regulated health professions as a measure to facilitate team-based care in primary health care settings.
- ▶ In particular, there is significant interest across Canada in developing non-physician prescribing (i.e. nurse practitioners and pharmacists) (Canadian Pharmacist Association 2013; Law et al. 2012).



Purpose and Rationale

- **What impacts do the models of professional self-regulation in Canada have on enhancing scopes of practice?**
- A dearth of literature exists on the implications of the models of professional self-regulation to enhance scopes of practice.
 - How do these institutions affect primary health care reform initiatives?
 - No analysis of the models for professional self-regulation has been conducted in the last 20 years.
- This knowledge will enhance the ability of provincial governments to achieve desired policy objectives.



Methodology

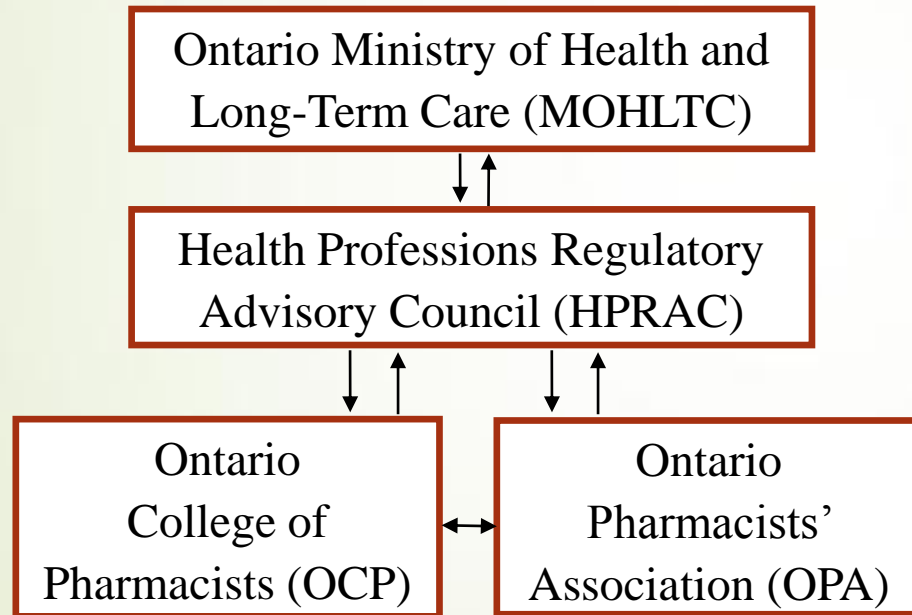


- ▶ A comparative case study on the enhancement of scopes of pharmacists' practice in Ontario and Saskatchewan.
 - ▶ Both provinces have cited the enhancements of the scopes of pharmacists' practice as a mechanism to facilitate collaboration among health care providers.
 - ▶ These provinces support different models of professional self-regulation.
- ▶ Discourse analysis of publicly available documents from provincial governments, regulatory bodies, and professional associations.

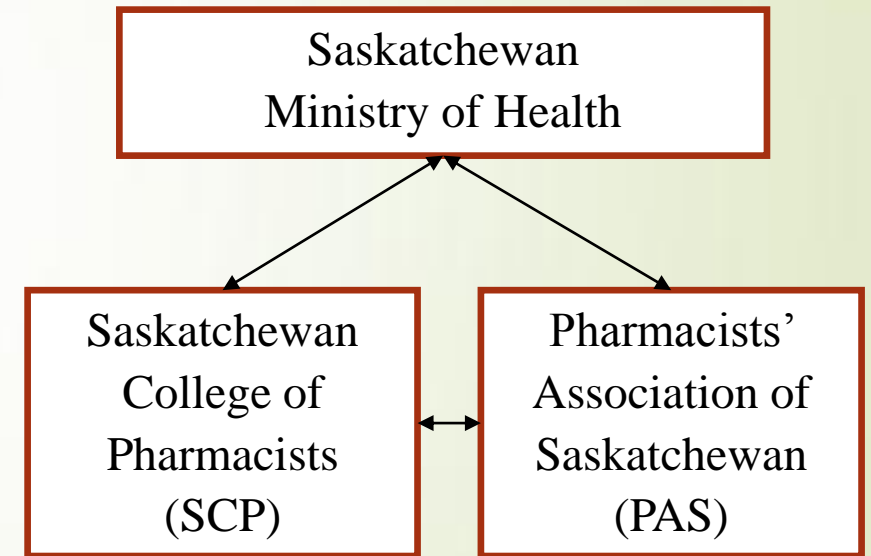
Case Study

Provincial Government Stewardship

Ontario



Saskatchewan



Case Study

Timeline of Amendments to Acts

1991: *The Regulated Health Professions Act*, and *The Pharmacy Act* are passed – implement the omnibus regulatory framework.

2009: *Bill 179* authorizes pharmacists to prescribe and administer specific drugs.

2012: By-laws approved to enhance pharmacists prescribing authority and administration of drugs (i.e. flu vaccine).

Ontario

Saskatchewan

1996: *The Pharmacy Act* is passed providing updates to the regulation of pharmacists.

2003: Amendments to the *Pharmacy Act* allow pharmacists to prescribe certain drugs but authority is limited to emergency contraception.

2011: Pharmacist by-laws approved to allow prescribing of minor, self-limiting and self-diagnosed ailments.

Case Study


Enhancement to the Scope of Pharmacists' Practice

| Scope of Practice | Ontario | Saskatchewan |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Provide emergency prescription refills | Yes | Yes |
| Renew/extend prescriptions | Yes | Yes |
| Adapt prescription drug therapy | Yes | Yes |
| Make therapeutic substitutions | No | Yes |
| Initiate prescription drug therapy | Yes (smoking cessation) | Yes (minor ailments) |
| Order and interpret lab tests | Pending | No |
| Administer a drug by injection | Yes (flu vaccine) | No |

(Canadian Pharmacists Association 2013; Law et al. 2012).



Policy Implications

- The models of professional self-regulation did not appear to impact the enhancement of scopes of pharmacists' practice.
 - The nature of the discussions among policy actors directed the type of enhancements that occurred in each province.
 - In the umbrella model, the role of HPRAC appeared to diminish the autonomy of the health professions.
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Future Research



- Conduct a similar analysis with the interactions of other health care professionals (i.e. nurse practitioners).
- Identify other factors that may facilitate or inhibit the enhancement of scopes of practice.
- Determine how the enhancement of scopes of practice will facilitate collaboration among health professions.
 - Community pharmacies vs. primary health care settings.
- In Ontario, there has been significant integration of pharmacists in primary health care settings but other provinces are far behind.



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Thank you!

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