

SESSION: Lessons Learned From the COVID-19 Pandemic and Implications for Pandemic Preparedness

Date and Time:

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Presentation Details:

Pharmacists are Canadians' most accessible health care providers. This has never been more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Community pharmacies remained open, with pharmacists continuing to provide essential medication management care to patients, while other health care providers closed their doors. However, the pandemic has presented community pharmacy with many practice challenges including procurement of PPE; maintaining continuity of care for patients; managing drug shortages; providing care to a surge of patients seeking help – all while maintaining heightened infection control measures. Undeniably, it is essential to incorporate early lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to help pharmacists be better prepared for the upcoming pandemic or wave. This presentation will highlight key strategies and considerations in achieving patient continuity of care, safeguarding medication supply, and optimizing workflow to protect staff and patients. While it's impossible to prevent a pandemic from occurring, there is much pharmacists can do in preparation.

The learning objectives for this presentation include:

- Identify the various roles pharmacists play during a pandemic
- Discuss changes to workflow and practice to protect pharmacy members and patients
- List challenges to continuity of care and describe solutions to overcoming these barriers
- Identify legislative changes to pharmacists' scope to facilitate care during a pandemic

Presented by:

Shelita Dattani, BSc (Pharm), Pharm D

About the presenter:

Shelita received her bachelor of science in pharmacy from Northeastern University and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During her career, she has worked in numerous practice settings including hospital, community, academic, and industry in the US and Canada where she has led dynamic teams towards excellence in effective and safe best medication practice. Sheli has also held teaching appointments at the University of Ottawa and has precepted students at the University of Waterloo and University of Toronto and has a passion for teaching future leaders in the profession. She has authored several articles and book chapters and has presented in various capacities at local and national conferences.

Sheli is currently the Director, Practice Development and Knowledge Translation, at the Canadian Pharmacists Association. She leads the professional affairs group at the Canadian Pharmacist Association and is responsible for leading evidence informed practice advancement and development initiatives for the advancement of pharmacists practice in Canada. She also holds an active pharmacist license in the province of Ontario, maintains a part-time practice in community pharmacy and remote hospital telepharmacy, and is a member of several professional organizations. Sheli has a strong interest and passion for advancement of the pharmacy profession in the provision of excellence in patient care.