

COVE VIEW PHARMACY INC

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To Whom It May Concern:

My Pharmacists at Shoppers Drug Mart on Westmorland Rd provide prescription adaptation, or we prescribe on a daily basis, following the 2008 amendments to the Pharmacy Act. This allows our patients the continuity in care that the health system can't seem to keep on top of. By us doing this for our patients it keeps them out of the emergency rooms and after hour clinics or from foregoing their treatment plans all together. We end up taking on more responsibility for these prescribed medications and their health needs until the patients are able to see their doctors. It is possible that these and other services will have to be reimbursed if not directly funded, as a result of pending government cuts.

I have other suggestions for cost savings. Among them are the following:

- ✓ 30 Day Trial Prescription
- ✓ Faster process for approval of generic drugs
- ✓ Funding to support Therapeutic Substitution (e.g. Atorvastatin v Crestor)
- ✓ Give pharmacists greater responsibility with immunization. We have a proven track record of managing inventory, and almost half the people who got their flu shot in pharmacy, did so on 'impulse'. I have a pharmacist on staff that can administer SC and most IM injections.
- ✓ Pharmacists have the ability under the Pharmacy Act to order and interpret lab values. Make RHA Act and hospital committee changes that give pharmacists the ability to order lab tests and to receive the results electronically, so that we can continue medication, or make appropriate adaptations as required.

We need a reimbursement framework that includes Fair Drug Prices, Fair Fees for Services such as dispensing and prescription adaptation, and Fair Incentives for New Services such as NB Pharmacheck™ and Immunization.

In other provinces where price measures were implemented, governments have negotiated service agreements to recognize pharmacists' costs to operate.

These reinvestments in pharmacy services were done at the same time as prices were regulated, and transition time was part of every agreement.

Pharmacists are a vital first point of contact to primary care for patients in the community.

Pharmacists are THE MOST TRUSTED Professional according to a January 2011 IPSOS-REID poll.

Pharmacists are the most ACCESSIBLE health professional. We are being asked daily to provide expanded services to New Brunswickers who do not have access to a family doctor.

The costs of dispensing are higher than the dispensing fees being paid by NBPDP. A BCPHA / CACDS study from 2007 established the cost of dispensing at \$13.60 per prescription. In 2008, noted economist Dr Wade Locke from Memorial University, completed a study that established the dispensing costs at \$12.01 in that province. Trade allowances from generic manufacturers have subsidized these fees for many years. NBPDP has increased fees on two occasions in the last decade. This has not kept pace with inflation, with our costs to operate, or with other provinces.

The recent report from the New Brunswick Health Council indicates that 59 % of New Brunswickers reported taking a medication for a chronic disease, and that 47% of them could not explain why, or what the drug was for. This indicates a need for greater education and counseling. Government cuts to pharmacy revenues do the opposite.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Greg MacIntyre
Pharmacist Owner