



## **Pharmacist on the Front Lines of a Pandemic - Q&A with Sherri Boehringer**

Sherri Boehringer is a clinical pharmacist at the SRx Pharmacy and Pharmacare in Calgary. She has over 25 years of experience and her favourite clinical areas in pharmacy are cardiology and diabetes.

I would like to highlight some of my colleagues from SRx Pharmacy who stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Calgary, there has been a shortage of Certified Diabetes Educators (CDEs) available to provide care to patients with diabetes and obesity during the pandemic. Of course, these patients still need care and education. My CDE pharmacist colleagues, Stephanie Gysel and Dan Burton, began taking a number of diabetes and obesity referrals from local endocrinologists starting in the month of March. This was in addition to their regular workload within the pharmacy. They provided care to patients with diabetes and obesity virtually (by phone or video conferencing). This hardworking duo initiated and adjusted medications and provided education on injection training, blood glucose sensors, and lifestyle counselling. Together with our pharmacy technician, Betty Lau, they ensured these patients received excellent care, education, and vital medications in a timely manner. This great team also ensured that care for other pharmacy patients never skipped a beat.

As for myself, I was unfortunately quite sick in mid-March with symptoms that aligned very much with coronavirus. I did test negative, but I'll be curious to possibly get antibody testing one day to see if I really did have it. The good news is I was much better by early April and able to help out at SRx Pharmacy where I work part-time, and things were getting very busy! I also do drug information consulting but most of my projects have been put on hold until July due to the pandemic. Additionally, the pandemic has affected my family as my husband who works in the oil industry lost his job in April and my son who is in grade 12 will not be celebrating his grad. It helps to know we are not alone and there are a lot of other people in similar situations.

We count our blessings every day. We are currently healthy, live in a cozy home, and are optimistic about the future!