

Part 1

Alberta has the widest scope of practice in the world and RxA is recognized by Alberta Health as a representative association for pharmacists in Alberta. In no more than 1000 words, describe how RxA advocates for the profession and what work it has done to achieve this scope and complementary reimbursement model.

The Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA) is recognized by Alberta Health as a representative association for pharmacists in Alberta. Globally, Alberta is well known as the province with the widest scope of practice. RxA has been instrumental in achieving and expanding this recognition and its complementary reimbursement model. This success can be attributed to RxA's mission to promote the value of pharmacists in supporting and optimizing the health of Albertans. The association achieves this by advocating and advancing the profession in multiple ways. The association advocates for the profession by meeting with stakeholders locally, provincially and nationally. It meets with elected officials and pharmacists locally through RxA's leadership cohort. RxA also motivates pharmacists through awards and recognition.

One of the primary ways RxA advocates for the pharmacy profession is by meeting with stakeholders locally, provincially and nationally. RxA through its members advocate for the profession by practicing collaborative patient-centred care, practicing to their full scope, and communicating effectively what they do in their practice environment. RxA believes that patients are the public, stakeholders and elected officials. Therefore, by building positive mutual relationships, communicating what they do and providing great care, pharmacists are believed to advocate for their profession through their interactions with patients.

Through its leadership cohort, RxA meets with pharmacists to get them involved in providing initiatives that shape regulations that govern the pharmacy practice. Pharmacists are encouraged by the association to meet with their leadership cohort members to understand more about their role, what RxA is doing and how to get involved. Pharmacists connect with them to provide their stories and feedback to support the association's ongoing efforts. The goal of connecting pharmacists with their cohort leaders is to unite, collaborate and share the association's vision which has led to a unified, innovative, inspired and thriving profession.

RxA meets with local elected officials to build a relationship and inform them of the impacts health policy has on the practice of Pharmacists. RxA communicates with policy makers on the value that pharmacists bring to the healthcare system especially medication management, patient education and preventive care. The aim of this is to increase the understanding of the value of the profession.

RxA recognizes pharmacists through awards and recognition. The association advocates for the profession by recognizing and celebrating the positive impacts that pharmacists make. The Alberta Pharmacy Excellence (APEX) Awards is an annual award that recognizes excellence in pharmacy practice in Alberta. Another example include RxA's Advancing the Profession Scholarship. This award recognizes candidates who demonstrate leadership skills and

professional insight to advance the pharmacy practice in Alberta. The RxA's New Horizons Scholarship is also created to support internationally trained pharmacists who demonstrate how they will support the profession once licensed. This is to motivate pharmacists taking on the responsibility of promoting the image of the profession

With the mission to improve the health of Albertans, RxA recognized the need to take on more responsibilities to achieve this goal. Through a series of collaborations and negotiations with the government, RxA was able to expand the scope of practice of pharmacists in Alberta. In Alberta, some pharmacists' scope of practice include, Additional Prescribing Authority (APA), authorization to administer drugs or vaccines by injection, and authority to order and interpret laboratory tests. RxA has also been able to support this development by investing in professional development and education necessary to equip pharmacists with the skills and knowledge needed to take on an expanded scope of practice.

In terms of the complementary reimbursement model, RxA has been at the forefront advocating for appropriate compensation and recognition of pharmacists' contribution to healthcare. According to RxExpress, the 2019 summer edition, the Government of Alberta announced a new pharmacy agreement supporting pharmacists' practices with over 100 million dollars in annual funding for professional services in 2018. This is an example of some notable negotiations RxA has done with the Alberta government for fair and sustainable compensation of pharmacy services.

In conclusion, RxA, which is recognized by Alberta Health as a representative association for pharmacists in Alberta, has played an important role in advancing the pharmacy profession. This is reflected by their wide scope of practice. Alberta's scope of practice is as a result of the relentless efforts of RxA to promote the values of the profession and support the health of Albertans. RxA advocates for the profession by supporting its members to perform to their full scope and working with the government to fund these pharmacy services.

PART 2

As you move forward to become practitioners in Alberta, you will have the responsibility of working in the unique Alberta practice model. In no more than 1000 words, describe how do you plan to utilize your experience to advocate for the profession and make an impact on your patients

According to the government of Alberta Ministry of Health, healthcare providers in Alberta deliver the highest quality of safe, patient-centred care by collaborating with each other, with individuals, their families and caregivers. Collaborative patient centred care can be defined as a team of professionals working together to provide comprehensive care to patients while putting patients at the centre of care. As I embark on my journey to become a licensed pharmacist in Alberta, I will have the responsibility of working in this unique Alberta practice model. I plan to

utilize my experience to advocate for the profession and make a positive impact on my patients by practicing collaborative patient-centred care.

According to Alberta Health Services, collaborative care is a multi-professional, patient-centred approach to care that is team-driven, population-focused, measurement-guided, and evidence-based. Working with other professionals is pertinent to providing healthcare with optimum clinical outcomes. Working in isolation puts patients at risks of opinions that may not be of benefit to them. When providing care to patients, it is important to identify areas that will be best managed by another professional. Some problems patients face may not always be solved by medications as related to pharmacy practice. In such cases, I will work with patients to identify these areas and refer them to the appropriate professional. Therefore, I will identify other healthcare professionals in my practice area, build professional relationships with them and work with them to provide comprehensive care to patients with complex health needs.

There are lots of factors that determine how a patient thinks or feels about their illness. This includes their family background, ethnicity, cultural beliefs and past experience. Patients want to be heard and their opinions matter in making health decisions. To accommodate their beliefs and culture, I will ask open-ended questions on how they feel or what they think about their medical conditions. I will also listen to them as this is a crucial step in understanding one's patient as a person. Patient centred care can also be seen as person centred care. Seeing a patient as a unique individual with personal beliefs and culture creates a background to base a clinical decision on. It also creates a safe environment for patients in which they can trust the care given to them.

Sharing power and responsibility with patients include inviting patients to explain their preference in treatment. Most health conditions have multiple options in treatment. After understanding a patient's background knowledge about their medical condition, it is necessary to explain the condition to them and the treatment options. Allowing patients to choose their treatment of choice is an important aspect I will include in my practice. This gives patients a sense of control on their health. When patients have control over their health, it enhances adherence to therapy. When patients are adherent to their therapy, it reduces health complications which directly reduces the burden on the healthcare system.

The next step in patient centred care is to develop a treatment plan. I will incorporate patients' choices and preferences into their treatment plan. The purpose of this is to form a therapeutic partnership with them. This would optimize the patient's therapy experience. An example includes addressing insomnia with proper sleep hygiene practices instead of sleep medications. I will acknowledge patients' preferences as they know what is best for them to adopt and maintain in treatment.

Practitioners must be aware of their own beliefs, behaviours and responses when providing patient-centred care. Patients are the centre of the decision making process. Therefore, from the start to the end of all patient interactions, my focus will be on the patient's goals of therapy. I will respect patients' decisions and not allow my judgement or opinions to trump theirs.

Collaborative patient centred care is a model adopted by Alberta health care professionals to provide patient care. When I become a licensed pharmacist in Alberta, I will have the responsibility associated with working in the Alberta practice model. I plan to utilize my experience to advocate for the profession and make a positive impact on my patients by collaborating with diverse professionals and patients to deliver comprehensive quality care to patients.