Energize your pharmacy practice

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THE BIG NEWS IN THE PHARMACY PROFESSION IN Canada is the continued expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice across the country. Pharmacists can significantly respond to the needs of their patients in ways that were not possible even 5 years ago. A few examples come to mind:

- Pharmacists are playing an increasingly important role in immunizing Canadians for both seasonal influenza and, in some jurisdictions, other important infectious diseases. This comes at a time when the importance of immunization is being underscored by recent outbreaks of measles and pertussis.
- Pharmacists across Canada are increasingly performing medication reviews, adapting prescriptions and treating minor ailments.

Continuing professional development (CPD) and a lifelong commitment to learning are vital to practicing competently within this new environment. They also provide the confidence to meet

patients' care needs, to work more closely with other health care providers, and to explore new services to make your pharmacy stand out.

CPhA has offered CPD programs for some time now and is committed to meeting the needs of pharmacists today. Our award-winning ADAPT program has given pharmacists the confidence and competence to practice in primary care settings and in many cases has helped to transform their practices.

One of the new programs that CPhA is currently developing involves monitoring and interpreting lab tests. As several jurisdictions enable or consider legislation that will authorize pharmacists to order lab tests, we have responded by developing a program to help front-line community pharmacists embrace this new authority, better assess their patients, and contribute to optimal prescribing. Program development will be completed in early 2014.

How will you incorporate expanded scope and energize your practice in 2014? Consider a CPD program from CPhA to help get you there!