



### **B.C. Pharmacists could soon give injections**

**Jul. 21, 2009** – Pharmacists across the province will soon have the authority to give injections, if regulation changes proposed today are completed.

“Pharmacists are a great health resource for the province,” said Marnie Mitchell, BC Pharmacy Association (BCPhA) CEO. “The proposed regulations are a perfect fit—it builds on the vast distribution capabilities of the profession and provides the public with another avenue to access the flu vaccine and other injections.”

The Minister of Health Services, Kevin Falcon, announced today a proposal for regulatory changes under the Health Professions Act that will allow qualified pharmacists to administer injections to prevent and treat disease. There will be a 30-day consultation period for the proposed changes. The BCPhA expects the changes will be approved in September.

The BCPhA has been working with the College of Pharmacists of BC and the BC Centre for Disease Control to develop a comprehensive training program. Pharmacists will need to complete an accredited administration of injections program with both theory and practical education components, as well as have current first-aid and CPR training. Once training is complete, pharmacists will apply to the College of Pharmacists of BC for authorization under Professional Practice Policy 62.

“The accessibility of pharmacists makes them a critical health-care partner for annual campaigns like flu vaccinations and more urgent situations such as a flu pandemic,” said Mitchell. “In the long-term, we expect the authority for pharmacists to administer injections will be an excellent complement to our physicians and community health nurses and provide the public with another choice for routine injections such as travel vaccines.”

Pharmacists in Alberta have had a similar authority, since 2007. The proposed changes are available at <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/leg/notice/pharmacy.html> for review.

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