



**Consultation: 34015:2026 Primary Health Care Services Standard – Public Review**

**Submitted:** April 29, 2026

**Executive Summary: HSO held an open consultation for the Primary Health Care Services Standard**, a proposed National Standard of Canada that outlines a framework for primary healthcare services.

**CSHP provided the following feedback:**

- Strengthen the integration of medication management as a core component of primary care. Given the significant role medications play in patient outcomes, CSHP recommends embedding medication-related considerations more explicitly throughout the standard, including population health planning, quality indicators, and performance measurement. This includes tracking metrics such as adverse drug events, prescribing appropriateness, and medication discrepancies.
- Highlight the critical role of pharmacists within interprofessional primary care teams. While the standard acknowledges team-based care, it does not consistently or clearly define the contributions of pharmacy professionals. CSHP recommends explicitly including pharmacists as core team members across multiple sections, emphasizing their expertise in medication management, chronic disease management, antimicrobial and opioid stewardship, immunization, and transitions of care. The submission also identifies an existing funding and resource gap limiting pharmacist integration in primary care settings across Canada.
- Amplify the need for improved guidance on transitions of care. CSHP notes that clearer expectations and accountability structures are required to ensure safe and coordinated care when patients move between settings (i.e.: hospital to outpatient).
- The standard would benefit from stronger emphasis on digital health infrastructure, including interoperable systems such as e-prescribing, shared medication records, and clinical decision support tools to enhance continuity and safety.
- Specific section-level feedback reinforces these themes. Recommendations include incorporating medication-use data into population health planning (Section 1.1.2), recognizing pharmacists as accessible first points of contact (Section 2.1.1), ensuring interoperability across care settings (Section 1.3.2), improving role clarity within interprofessional teams (Section 4.1.2), and including pharmacist-related performance indicators in quality improvement efforts (Sections 5.1.5 and 5.1.6).
- Improve patient access to their own health records for shared decision-making.
- CSHP's recommendations are supported by substantial evidence demonstrating that pharmacist integration in primary care improves clinical outcomes, enhances medication safety, and generates significant cost savings. Overall, CSHP encourages further refinement of the standard to better reflect the essential role of pharmacists in delivering safe, effective, and coordinated primary care.