



Consultation: Nunavut Professions Act Regulations Consultation

Submitted: May 8, 2026

Executive Summary: The Government of Nunavut consulted on proposed regulations under the Pharmacy Professions Act and issued a consultation for feedback from stakeholders, including on potential expansions to the scope of practice for pharmacy professionals.

CSHP provided the following feedback:

1. Expand Pharmacist Scope of Practice

- Expanding pharmacists' scope will improve access to care, particularly in Nunavut's remote and underserved communities, while enhancing medication safety and continuity of care.
- Recommended authorities include prescribing Schedule I medications, adapting and renewing prescriptions, administering vaccines and injections and ordering and interpreting laboratory tests.
- A principles-based framework—rather than restrictive medication lists—will allow flexibility as evidence and practice evolve.

2. Strengthen System Supports for Implementation

- Expanded scope must be supported by education, training, and certification requirements, access to electronic health records and laboratory systems, collaborative care frameworks, sustainable funding and remuneration, virtual care and telepharmacy infrastructure.

3. Enable Pharmacy Technicians to Maximize Technical Scope

- Pharmacy technicians should perform advanced technical and operational functions, including dispensing and preparation, compounding (with appropriate training), inventory and cold-chain management, controlled substance support, and clear role separation must be maintained: clinical decision-making remains with pharmacists.

4. Implement Flexible, Risk-Based Regulation and Quality Assurance

- Regulatory design should: use a principles-based approach, focus restrictions on high-risk activities (e.g., controlled substances, hazardous compounding), support continuous quality improvement through competency assessments, practice audits, incident reporting and learning systems, and promote a non-punitive, "just culture".

5. Leverage Technology and Telepharmacy

- Given Nunavut's geography, virtual care and telepharmacy are essential to: improve access to pharmacist services, support continuity of care, enable remote supervision and collaboration.
- Regulations should ensure secure, reliable systems and clear standards for privacy, documentation, and escalation.

6. Embed Inuit Cultural Safety and Nunavut-Specific Realities

- Regulations should reflect: Inuit cultural safety and trauma-informed care, language and interpretation needs, privacy challenges in small communities, limited infrastructure and emergency access, cultural safety training should be mandatory and ongoing.

7. Support Workforce Recruitment and Retention

- To address workforce shortages, regulations should: maintain flexibility in registration and currency requirements, enable remote and telepractice models, keep fees affordable and proportionate, and avoid unnecessary administrative burden.