



## NEWS RELEASE

### Pharmacist care for patients with hypertension would save the Saskatchewan health care system more than \$423 million

#### *First study of its kind highlights significant economic impact of pharmacist care in hypertension management*

**March 29, 2017:** A new study shows that comprehensive long-term pharmacist care for Saskatchewan residents with hypertension, including patient education and prescribing, improves health outcomes and will save money for the province's cash-strapped health care system. Projected cost savings would be more than \$423 million if the full scope pharmacist care were administered to the full eligible population in Saskatchewan.

The peer-reviewed study looked at alternatives to usual hypertension care, including full scope pharmacist care—making full use of pharmacists' scope of skills, including prescribing. The analysis shows a real and significant benefit from pharmacist care both in terms of cost savings and health benefits when compared to usual care.

“For the first time there is evidence illustrating the significant amount of health care dollars that can be saved by allowing pharmacists to provide full scope of care to Saskatchewan people living with hypertension,” said Carlo Marra lead researcher of the study. “While there has long been evidence available for the health benefits of pharmacist care in hypertension management, there has been, until now, a lack of research done on the economic value of this type of care, particularly in Canada.”

In all analyses, the rates for cardiovascular disease and kidney failure are lowest with the full scope of pharmacist care and highest under the usual care regime. The results also highlight the relatively low costs of the program, particularly relative to the costs of treating cardiovascular disease or kidney failure.

For the full results the reports online:

#### **Related links (Options)**

- [Improving health and lowering costs: Benefits of pharmacist care in hypertension in Canada](#) (National Report – PDF)
- [Interactive web application](#)

- [Cost-effectiveness of pharmacist care for managing hypertension in Canada](#) (*Canadian Pharmacists Journal* - original research)

The Saskatchewan report will be released next week.

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