

Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care

Office of the Minister

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Ministère de la Santé  
et des Soins de longue durée

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HLTC2966MC-2017-25

Dr. Gauri Shankar  
President  
College of Chiropractors of Ontario  
130 Bloor Street West, Suite 902  
Toronto ON M5S 1N5

Dr. Ayla Azad  
President  
Ontario Chiropractic Association  
20 Victoria Street, Suite 200  
Toronto ON M5C 2N8

Dear Dr. Shankar and Dr. Azad,

I am writing in regard to changes to the scope of practice for chiropractors that will enhance patient access. These include fulfilling our government's commitment to allow chiropractors to order:

- laboratory tests;
- specified x-rays; and
- diagnostic ultrasounds

The *Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care* sets out four pillars that underlie our government's plan to change and improve our health care system: Access, Connect, Inform and Protect. As part of the Access pillar, the government is committed to providing increased access to the right care, which includes expanding scopes of practice. To this end, I have asked the ministry to move forward on assessing scope of practice changes beginning with the *Regulated Health Professions Statute Law Amendment Act*, or Bill 179.

I have directed the ministry to implement an approach to reviewing scope of practice requests based on the principles of putting patients first. The ministry has developed a Model for the Evaluation of Scopes of Practice in Ontario (MESPO), a framework that sets out a rigorous approach that focuses on patient need, system need and safe practice, to guide decision-making and implementation. The MESPO framework will be used to assess all scope changes going forward.

To help achieve the Patients First Action Plan's objective to increase access to the right care at the right time, the scopes of practice initiative will require extensive work between the College, Association and the ministry.

I am asking for your cooperation in working with the ministry to move forward on this item, which will involve the making of government regulation. Ministry staff will be in contact with you to discuss timelines and the staging activities related to this work. Staff will work with you to move these forward as quickly as possible.

I would like to thank you for your continued contributions to the healthcare system in Ontario and I look forward to your participation on this important project.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Hoskins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister

- c: Dr. Robert Bell, Deputy Minister, MOHLTC
- Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, HWPRAD, MOHLTC
- Jo-Ann Willson, Registrar, College of Chiropractors of Ontario
- Dr. Bob Haig, Chief Executive Director, Ontario Chiropractic Association