



## **Statement of Christina Adams, Chief Pharmacy Officer for the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists on New Mexico Canadian drug importation**

November 30, 2020

I am Christina Adams, the Chief Pharmacy Officer for the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists. We are a non-profit that represents pharmacy professionals working in hospitals to improve patient care by safe and effective medication use. I am also a practicing pharmacist.

I am writing today to comment on my concerns about your proposed Canadian drug importation program. I am concerned because our nation of 38 million people does not have the pharmaceutical supply for your 329 million citizens. In fact, importation by even the 2.1 million people of New Mexico would have a significant negative effect on the Canadian drug supply chain, which was experiencing record shortages before the pandemic and shocking ones since the pandemic began. In addition, if U.S. states import our drugs on any kind of scale, price differences between our countries are likely to disappear.

As an organization of pharmacists, CSHP is sympathetic to the challenges that New Mexico patients face in accessing affordable medicines, but importation is such a poor solution that we have joined the Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies Canada to advocate for a ban on medicine exports for U.S. programs like these.

Importation will also exacerbate drug shortages that already harm Canadian patients. Canadian pharmacists already manage as many as 2,000 drug shortages at any given time, and in a recent survey, [one in four residents reported being affected by drug shortages](#). In hospital settings, these shortages directly and negatively affect patient outcomes. Instead of doing clinical work with patients, pharmacists spend too much time sourcing scarce drugs, finding appropriate substitutes, repackaging for correct dosages, and communicating with other healthcare professionals about these shortages.

Wholesale drug importation will hurt Canadians and it will not help New Mexico residents with drug prices. We hope New Mexico can pursue other avenues to make medicines more affordable.