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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Attention: Health/General News Editors

RxA celebrates April 1 prescribing authority milestone

Edmonton, AB – The Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA) is looking forward to this Sunday when Alberta makes history by giving pharmacists the legal authority to prescribe some medications and administer drugs by injection.

As of April 1, 2007, Alberta pharmacists will be able to prescribe some drug treatments, continue prescriptions made by other health practitioners and administer injectable drug treatments, such as vaccines. Overall, Alberta residents will have better access to drug treatments, particularly more basic prescriptions or in instances where prescriptions need to be extended.

"This Sunday will mark a historic milestone for Alberta pharmacists who now have an unparalleled opportunity to expand their scope of practice to benefit Albertans and the health care system as a whole," said Cameron Johnston, acting CEO for RxA.

Within the new prescribing authority, Alberta pharmacists may choose which expanded services they add to their practice -- such as prescribing medication or administering drugs by injection. As of April 1, pharmacy services will continue to vary from pharmacist to pharmacist as has always been the case. Pharmacy clients are encouraged to talk to their pharmacists about what services are available in that pharmacy.

"Sunday will also mark the beginning of a transition period for pharmacists and their clients as they gradually begin to expand services on an individual basis and according to their own individual preferences. It's important that the public is aware of this transition period and that they talk to pharmacists about what services will be available," added Johnston.

RxA was launched in 2000 as the professional advocacy body and voice for Alberta pharmacists. Representing more than 2,400 pharmacists throughout the province, RxA's mission is, through leadership and advocacy, to promote and support the value of pharmacists as primary health care providers.

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