

## **Notice from the Executive Officer: Regulation to support the *Safeguarding our Communities Act, 2015 (Patch for Patch Return Program)***

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**September 16, 2016**

This notice is to provide pharmacies with information regarding the *Safeguarding our Communities Act (Patch for Patch Return Policy), 2015* (the “Act”) and its regulation. The regulation made under the Act has been approved by the Ontario Government, and the Act and regulation will come into force on October 1, 2016.

The Act and regulation set out rules for the prescribing and dispensing of fentanyl patches in Ontario. The Act will place stricter controls on the prescribing and dispensing of fentanyl patches, and require patients to return patches to their pharmacy before more can be dispensed.

On June 1, 2016, information on the proposed regulation under the Act was posted for 45 days on the ministry’s website to give stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposed regulation.

I would like to thank all those who submitted comments and participated in the consultation process. As a result of the comments we received, the proposed regulation was revised to:

- Clarify the contingency plan that applies when a dispenser believes missing fentanyl patches returned to the pharmacy relate to an offence (e.g. diversion, trafficking).

For the authoritative text of [the Act](#) and [regulation](#), please visit the e-Laws website at:

[www.ontario.ca/laws](http://www.ontario.ca/laws)

The ministry has been working closely with the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP) and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO), who have developed a joint fact sheet which is posted on their respective websites.

- Ontario College of Pharmacists: [www.ocpinfo.com](http://www.ocpinfo.com); [fact sheet](#)
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario: [www.cpsso.on.ca](http://www.cpsso.on.ca); [fact sheet](#)

There is a Frequently Ask Questions (FAQs) that accompanies this notice. Please read and review both documents for further information on the Patch for Patch program.