

## **OHCA applauds expansion of MedsCheck Program**

September 28, 2010 – The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA) applauds the expansion of the MedsCheck program to residents of long-term care homes, individuals with diabetes and people who have difficulty travelling to a community pharmacy, many of whom would be receiving Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) services. The Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care announcement earlier in the summer went into effect this month.

OHCA values the contribution and expertise of the community pharmacist as an integral member of the health care team in the home. OHCA members are witness to an increase in the number and complexities of medications administered at home. Increased medication use can lead to many adverse outcomes for home care clients leading to unplanned Emergency Department visits and even premature institutionalization. OHCA has long called for the recognition and inclusion of the community pharmacist as a critical resource to formal and family caregivers in the home and as an additional support to the broader home care team to enhance good health outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

The health system transformation in Ontario is grounded in organizing care around the person and improving the health outcomes of individuals. The OHCA believes this care is best offered as close to home as possible. The MedsCheck program at home is an important and commendable initiative that contributes to ‘excellence for all’ in Ontario.

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### **About the OHCA**

The Ontario Home Care Association (OHCA), *the voice of home care in Ontario*, is an organization of home health and social care service providers. Association members deliver nursing care, home support services, personal care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, dietetics, speech language therapy and medical equipment and supplies in the home to individuals of all ages. OHCA members are contracted by all three levels of government, Community Care Access Centres, insurance companies, institutions, corporations and private individuals. OHCA members are accredited through Accreditation Canada, CARF, and/or the International Standards Association (ISO).

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For the latest in news and information about the home care sector in Ontario, subscribe to the Ontario Home Care Association’s “House Call” at [www.homecareontario.ca](http://www.homecareontario.ca).

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<sup>1</sup> The Community Pharmacist in Home Care, 2006, <http://www.homecareontario.ca/public/about/home-care/OHCA-Voice/index.cfm>