Six in Ten (61%) Ontarians Would Visit Their Pharmacist for Administration of Drugs and Immunizations, If they Had the Proper Training and Government Authorization

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Toronto, ON - If they knew their pharmacist had appropriate training and was authorized by the government to provide health advice and services to support their personal health beyond drug dispensing and prescription instructions, six in ten (61%) Ontarians would visit their pharmacist for the administration of drugs by injection, including immunizations, and drugs by inhalation.

The results of the Ipsos Reid poll, conducted on behalf of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, also reveal that various factors would make Ontarians more likely to visit their pharmacist instead of their doctor or a clinic for support on minor health issues (allergic reactions, cough and cold, eye/ear infections, etc). Among those factors are not having to make an appointment to see their pharmacist (77% say they'd be more likely to visit their pharmacist as a result), the pharmacy being open on the weekend or evenings (76%), not having to wait in a doctor's waiting room (76%) and that the pharmacist would communicate his/her activities to their doctor (75%).

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between December 20 to 21, 2011, on behalf of the Ontario Pharmacists' Association. For this survey, a sample of 803 adults living in Ontario from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A

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survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what the results would have been had the entire population of adults in Ontario been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error.

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