Health Canada’s Consultation on “Plain and Standardized Packaging”
https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13817

POLICY TYPE  
Response to consultation

DATE  
2016-08-12

TOPICS  
Health care and patient safety
Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

Documents

---

August 12, 2016

Dear Director,

Subject: Re: Health Canada’s Consultation on “Plain and Standardized Packaging”

I am writing in response to Health Canada’s Consultation on “Plain and Standardized Packaging” as a member of the Canadian Medical Association.

The Consultation, designed to seek public input on the potential for plain packaging and standardization of pharmaceutical packaging, is an opportunity to address the challenges faced by patients in navigating the complex landscape of prescription medications.

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) strongly supports plain packaging and standardization of pharmaceutical packaging as a means to improve patient safety and health care outcomes. We believe that a simple, consistent, and user-friendly packaging system can reduce the risk of medication errors, promote safe prescribing, and enhance patient understanding of medication instructions.

We recommend that Health Canada consider the following key points in its consultation:

1. **Clear Labeling:** Ensure that essential information on the packaging is clear and easily accessible. This includes drug name, dose, and any specific instructions for use.
2. **Color Coding:** Use color-coding to differentiate between dosage forms, especially for medications with similar names or appearances.
3. **Text Size:** Ensure that text is large enough to be easily readable, especially for patients with vision impairments.
4. **Prevention of Counterfeiting:** Implement security features to prevent the counterfeiting of medications. This can be achieved through unique packaging designs or the use of tamper-proof seals.
5. **Patient Education:** Integrate patient education materials into the packaging to help patients understand their medication regimen and manage their health effectively.

In conclusion, we believe that plain and standardized packaging can significantly improve patient safety and health care outcomes. We look forward to the results of this consultation and encourage Health Canada to consider the implementation of these recommendations to enhance the health and well-being of Canadians.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Title]
Canadian Medical Association

---

CMA Policybase - Canadian Medical Association  

p. 1