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New Canadian Guideline for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain

Canadian physicians now have access to more comprehensive and current information regarding the use of opioids to safely and effectively treat patients with chronic non-cancer pain.

The *Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain* offers practical advice for using opioid therapy as a treatment option for this growing patient population. The guideline is not proposed as a policy or standard of practice – it is intended to give physicians advice based on the best available information, research and consensus of opinion.

Canadian Medical Regulatory authorities, including the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba, were involved in the development of the new guideline. The project was led by the National Opioid Use Guideline Group (NOUGG) and supported by a research team and a national advisory panel of pain specialists, family physicians, addiction experts, pharmacists, academics, nurses and patient representatives.

The official guideline was released on May 3, 2010 in conjunction with the publication of a peer-reviewed article in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ). Copies of the guideline are available from the Michael G. DeGroote National Pain Centre [website](#) at McMaster University.

Further information is also available in the Backgrounder.

Adapted from The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta