

# **Opioid Replacement Therapy 101 course:**

## **An introduction to clinical practice.**

### **Broad learning objectives:**

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- 1) Have the prerequisite knowledge for initiating and monitoring patients on methadone and/or buprenorphine/naloxone.
- 2) Have developed basic decision making skills essential to providing or dispensing safe and effective opioid replacement therapy.
- 3) Appreciate the value of sensitivity, understanding and commitment in the delivery of addictions medicine in clinical or pharmacy practice.

### **Specific learning objectives:**

By completing the assigned pre-reading and participating in this workshop, learners will, through interactive, multidisciplinary learning activities (including power point presentations with discussion, small group simulated patient interviews and case discussions and reflective exercises) achieve the following objectives:

- 1) Review opioid use disorder (neuroanatomy and pathophysiology of the brain's reward system, typical clinical presentations, typical behaviours, DSM-5 criteria).
- 2) Review the model of addiction as a chronic disease, requiring long term management by health care professional(s) as well as mental health, spiritual and social support.
- 3) Perform a comprehensive assessment of an individual with opioid use disorder and select appropriate treatment options.
- 4) Understand the unique pharmacology of methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone and participate effectively in prescriber - pharmacist collaborative care.
- 5) Identify potential and actual drug interactions.
- 6) Select an appropriate methadone induction dose and manage initial methadone induction, dose adjustments and early stabilization issues appropriately.
- 7) Understand how to assess a patient's appropriateness for carry doses, including frequent reassessment and as-needed adjustments to carry status.

- 8) Understand important issues in the maintenance phase of treatment, including urine toxicology, prolonged QT, split dosing, smoking cessation support and withdrawal of treatment.
- 9) Understand special considerations in the treatment of pregnant women with opioid use disorder - in the ante-natal period, during labour and post- partum, including breast feeding.
- 10) Review neonatal opioid withdrawal and understand how treatment decisions may impact withdrawal severity and overall maternal/neonatal outcomes.
- 11) Understand the role education and advocacy plays in promoting improved neonatal/maternal outcomes and strengthening the family unit.
- 12) Understand special issues in the management of individuals with opioid use disorder and concurrent major psychiatric disorders.
- 13) Understand special issues in the management of individuals with opioid use disorder and concurrent true chronic pain.
- 14) Understand special considerations in the management of the individual with opioid use disorder and hepatitis C and/or HIV.
- 15) Develop a practical approach to managing insomnia in the patient with opioid use disorder.
- 16) Understand important safety considerations and develop a practical approach to managing individuals with opioid use disorder who also abuse alcohol and/or benzodiazepines.
- 17) Understand different models of service delivery in opioid replacement therapy including the comprehensive care model, private clinic model, community clinic model and family practice model. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of each model.
- 18) Integrate and ensure safe preparation, documentation, and dispensing of methadone in pharmacy practice.