

# **PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS IN MANITOBA – A CONSULTATION PROCESS**

## **Consultation to the Public**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (CPSM) has launched a consultation process to seek feedback from its members, related stakeholders and the general public, regarding the way in which doctors prescribe opioids to patients across the province, excluding those with active cancer, in palliative care or at the end-of-life.

The proposed **STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS** document clearly identifies the safest way for doctors to treat pain and ensure maximum patient well-being, in accordance with current clinical evidence and new national and international guidelines. Once finalized, the new Manitoba Standard will set the mandatory code of conduct and assist doctors in their practices, when considering the prescribing of opioids.

Importantly and recognizing that patients require different approaches, this proposed Standard of Practice is the *first-of-its-kind* in Canada to detail how to prescribe opioids across five different patient categories including to:

- Acute or post-surgery patients who self-administer for pain relief;
- Patients who have never had opioids (non-cancer, non-acute), starting with an initial trial;
- Patients new to a doctor's practice who have taken opioids for a long time;
- Patients currently prescribed more than 90 mg per day;
- Patients with non-cancer pain requiring continued prescribing;
- Adolescent patients.

This patient framework will enable doctors to quickly access the best practices for a particular patient type to enhance their safety and well-being.

### **BACKGROUND:**

To help address the opioid health crisis, a Working Group from medicine and other health professions was gathered for their diverse knowledge and clinical experience with opioids. The results of their work can be viewed [HERE](#) in the detailed Standard of Practice.

### **YOUR VIEWS ARE WELCOME:**

To create the strongest, most comprehensive Standard of Practice possible for the prescribing of opioids in Manitoba, all views are welcome. Given the importance of this issue, feedback is requested in writing and can be emailed to: [cpsm-sop-op@cpsm.mb.ca](mailto:cpsm-sop-op@cpsm.mb.ca).

The consultation process runs from **January 11 to February 16, 2018**. All feedback will be reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the Standard of Practice.