



MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR

The College's Approach to Implementing the Standard for the Prescribing of Opioids

The goals of implementing a Standard for the Prescribing of Opioids in Manitoba are:

- To set clear expectations regarding what is required from physicians before prescribing an opioid and while monitoring a patient on an opioid prescription.
- To support physicians in offering their patients evidence-based pain management within a framework that recognizes the benefits and risks of opioid prescribing.
- To promote pain management through an interdisciplinary approach.
- To reduce opioid prescribing related harms to the public.
- To protect patient access to ongoing health care.

The College wants to work with its members to implement the Standard and achieve these goals in a collaborative way. The College is facilitating education by updating its website with useful materials on opioids for physicians and patients. The website will also provide links to high quality continuing education programs on safe opioid prescribing and the management of opioid use disorder (opioid addiction).

The College will, on an ongoing basis, identify and assess low and moderate risk opioid prescribing and provide access to supportive education in order to avoid the need for future investigations. The College will also identify, investigate, and monitor high-risk or problem opioid prescribing practices in an effort to improve prescribing and protect the public from opioid-related harms.

The College expects physicians will respond positively to educational interventions to improve their quality of opioid prescribing by its members. Further intervention, including disciplinary action, may be warranted in circumstances where physicians are either unwilling or unable to address deficiencies through a collaborative and remedial approach.

Physician Prescriber Profile

The Physician Prescriber Profile is one of the tools the CPSM will use moving forward to assist physicians in improving their opioid prescribing practices. The Prescriber Profile is a personalized prescribing report that will be mailed, on an annual basis, to all physicians who prescribe opioids in Manitoba. The profile will compare each individual prescriber's opioid prescribing practices to that of their peers in a similar practice. It will also provide patient – specific information regarding prescribing that falls outside of current Canadian guidelines, utilizing standardized quality indicators. The intent of the prescriber profile is to provoke individual reflection and engagement in prescribing education and quality improvement. More information on how the CPSM will support its members in interpreting the prescriber profile in a practical way will follow in months to come.

Resources Required

The College recognizes that specific additional health care resources may be required to support this Standard of Practice. The College is working with Government to address this issue.

Greatest Appreciation

Finally, thank you to the members of the Working Group for devoting their time to creating the best possible Standard for Opioid Prescribing for Manitoba physicians.

Thank you to the many members who provided feedback on the draft Standard. Your passion for your profession and patients was evident throughout the feedback. A lot of careful thought was put into the many responses provided. The richness of the responses provided the College with a wealth of practical guidance from all perspectives in formulating this document.

Most importantly, the consultation demonstrated that the draft Standard is viewed extremely favourably by the membership and by other regulated health professions. This overall positive view will hopefully translate into this Standard of Practice being accepted and applied by the profession.

Thank you to the other regulated health professionals and patients who provided feedback. The input from diverse perspectives was very helpful in reviewing and finalizing the Standard.

Click on the appropriate link below for further information on the Standard of Practice for Prescribing Opioids that pertains to both physicians and patients:

- [The CPSM Standard of Practice for Prescribing Opioids](#)
- [Physician Information](#)
- [Patient Information](#)