

## OPIOID AGONIST TREATMENT (OAT)

**Standards of Practice** of the Yukon Medical Council (“the Council”) are the minimum standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct expected of all physicians registered in the Yukon. Standards of Practice will be referenced in the management of complaints and in discipline

The Council has adopted the [British Columbia Centre on Substance Use \(BCCSU\) Guideline for the Clinical management of Opioid Use Disorder](#) and the Yukon Opioid Working Group (OWG) Yukon Guide to Management of Opioid Use Disorder.

Opioid use disorder is a challenging form of addiction facing the health care system. The BCCSU *Guideline for the Clinical Management of Opioid Use Disorder* supports the diversity of possible treatments available for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD). The Yukon Opioid Working Group and the Council support the varied treatment options available but strongly recommend initiating opioid agonist treatment (OAT) with buprenorphine (suboxone) or naloxone whenever feasible to reduce toxicities and facilitate recovery through safety take-home dosing.

1. Physicians wishing to participate in the Opioid Agonist Treatment for Opioid Dependency, must obtain approval from the Council prior to providing patient care.
  - a. Physicians must apply as per the Methadone Authorization Procedure, available on the Council website.
2. Physicians wishing to become opioid agonist treatment prescribers must complete the online training for the [BC Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program](#).
  - a. Physicians wishing to prescribe methadone for opioid dependency must complete an additional 2 half-day preceptorship see Methadone Authorization Procedure.
  - b. Physicians may be approved for a temporary Council approval during the absence of an approved OAT physician. Request must be submitted to Council and approval is on a case-by-case review.
3. The Council has adopted two sets of guidelines for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), recognizing the challenges surrounding OUD and supporting the rural communities of Yukon. However, the guidelines are to be followed as written unless:
  - a. The physician provides rationale, in writing, for the change in treatment. Rationale must demonstrate reasonable care and/or protection of the public.
  - b. The physician provides a note with the prescription that notifies the pharmacist of all deviations from the guidelines and a brief rationale.

Office of Controlled Substances no longer requires the section 56 class exemption for the prescribing of methadone for pain or addiction; however, approval through Council is still required. Please see the Methadone Authorization Procedure.

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**Terms used in the Standards of Practice:**

- *Physician* means any person who is registered or who is required to be registered under the Medical Profession Act.
- *Must* refers to a mandatory requirement.
- *May* means that the physician may exercise reasonable discretion.
- *Patient* includes, where applicable, the patient’s legal guardian or substitute decision maker.

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	Date	Author
Approval	September, 2015	Laurel Miller
Amended	June, 2017	Laurel Miller
Amended – Adoption of new guidelines New educational requirements Removal of 56 class exempt.	May, 2018	Stephanie Connolly

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