



# Methadone Authorization Procedure

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Physicians wishing to participate in the Methadone Treatment Program (MTP), for Opioid Dependency or Pain Management (Palliative or Chronic Care), must obtain approval from the Yukon Medical Council (YMC) prior to providing patient treatments.

Physicians may be approved for a temporary exemption to act as an alternate for and during the absence of an approved MTP physician.

Physicians may be eligible for a section 56 class exemption issued by the Office of Controlled Substances when treating patients in hospital who have been taking methadone prior to hospitalization.

## APPLICATION

### **MTP Authorization-Opioid Dependence or Pain Management (Palliative or Chronic Care)**

#### **Opioid Dependence**

If a physician wishes to be authorized to administer methadone for opioid dependence, they are required to:

- Successfully complete an approved course on methadone; and
- Complete and submit the application form, provided by the Registrar's office, to YMC for approval.
- YMC will review the request and provide a written response of its decision to the applicant physician.
- The completed application, accompanied by a letter from the Registrar approving the physician's request, will be forwarded to the Office of Controlled Substances for authorization.
- The applicant physician will be notified by letter from the Office of Controlled Substances of their approved exemption for a three year period. This letter will be copied to YMC.



### **Pain Management (Palliative or Chronic Care)**

If a physician wishes authorization to administer methadone for pain management, they are required to:

- Provide a name of a physician who is already exempted to prescribe methadone for analgesic purposes and has agreed to be available to answer your questions when necessary during the first year of methadone prescribing.
- Complete and submit the application form, provided by the Registrar's office, to YMC for approval
- YMC will review the request and provide a written response of its decision to the applicant physician
- The completed application, accompanied by a letter from the Registrar approving the physician's request, will be forwarded to the Office of Controlled Substances for authorization.
- The applicant physician will be notified by letter from the Office of Controlled Substances of their approved exemption for a three-year period. This letter will be copied to YMC.

### **Temporary Absence – To provide coverage for an approved MTP Physician**

- MTP physicians who will be absent from practice, must submit a written request seeking approval from YMC for a locum replacement, providing details of reasons for absence from practice and the duration of the absence.
- YMC will review the request and respond in writing to the physician, providing confirmation of its decision.
- Upon receipt of approval from YMC, the locum practitioner will complete the application form provided by the Registrar's office.
- The completed application, accompanied by a letter from the Registrar approving the physician's request, will be forwarded to the Office of Controlled Substances for authorization of a temporary exemption.
- Physicians will be notified by letter from the Office of Controlled Substances of their approved exemption and the dates for the approved exemption period. This letter will be copied to YMC.



## Physicians Practising in a Yukon Hospital

Effective March 17, 2017 the Office of Controlled Substances (OCS) issued a section 56 class exemption affecting practitioners practising in a hospital. Practitioners are no longer required to obtain a temporary methadone exemption in order to continue the treatment of a patient admitted to a hospital who has been prescribed methadone.

This exemption is only applicable when specific [terms and conditions set out by Health Canada](#) are met.

For further clarity, Health Canada has advised the following: under the class exemption for temporary methadone prescription and administration in a hospital, a practitioner *may* increase or decrease the patient's methadone dose. However, it is recommended that the practitioner first consult with the original community methadone prescriber prior to making changes to the patient's methadone treatment or a practitioner with a general methadone exemption.

Please contact the OCS directly for more information.

### **Contact Information**

Office of Controlled Substances  
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