

METHADONE AUTHORIZATION

Physicians wishing to prescribe 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 obtain temporary approval to act as an alternate for and during the absence of an approved MTP physician.

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.

PROCEDURE

1. Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

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

- a. Successfully complete the online training for the [BC Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program](#). Provide proof to the Council.
- b. Complete 2 half-day preceptorship in British Columbia, or by a Council approved Yukon preceptor.
- c. Submit application with proof of training to the Council for YMC approval.
- d. Approvals are valid for 3 years.

2. Pain Management (Palliative or Chronic Care)

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

- a. Successfully complete the online training for [Canadian Virtual Hospice Methadone for Pain in Palliative Care](#).
- b. Familiar with the YMC Standard on Safe Prescribing of Drugs with Potential for Misuse/Diversion.
- c. Familiar with the [BC Methadone for Analgesia Guidelines](#).
- d. Submit application with proof of training to the Council for YMC approval.
- e. Approvals are valid for 3 years.

3. Temporary (Locum) Approval

If a physician cannot complete the above required training because they are short term locums, they are required to:

- a. Submit application form, including reasons for absence of approved OAT or Pain Management prescriber.
- b. Application reviewed case-by-case by the Council.
- c. Approvals are valid for time periods indicated in the application form.

Terms used in the Procedure:

- *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.

METHADONE AUTHORIZATION

4. Physicians Practicing in a Yukon Hospital – Temporary Prescribers

In an urgent or emergency situation in a Yukon hospital where a YMC Authorized Methadone Prescribing Physician is not available, a Temporary Prescribing Physician may prescribe methadone to a patient already receiving methadone (*for OUD or Pain Management*) only for the duration of the patient's hospital admission.

The Temporary Prescribing Physician must collaborate with the patient's current methadone prescriber and any other treating prescribers for all changes to the methadone dosage, frequency, or addition of medications that have the potential to interact with methadone.

Prior to the patient's discharge from hospital, the Temporary Prescribing Physician must collaborate with the Initiating or Maintaining Physician on: a) discharge plans b) any changes in dosage c) the prescribing of any medications that may interact with methadone including short term opioid analgesics.

	Date	Author
Approval	June 27, 2006	
Amended	January 12, 2010	Laurel Miller
Amended	June 16, 2017	Laurel Miller
Amended – Adoption of new guidelines New educational requirements Removal of 56 class exempt.	May 2018	Stephanie Connolly

Terms used in the Procedure:

- *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.