YUKON MEDICAL COUNCIL

Methadone Authorization Procedure

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.

Temporary exemptions may also be granted to treatment physicians in the case of an emergency at the Whitehorse General Hospital.

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
- 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.

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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.

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Emergencies at the Whitehorse General Hospital

- An emergency authorization can be issued by the Office of Controlled Substances in instances where a patient was on methadone under a Methadone Treatment Program, as treatment for chronic pain or as treatment in palliative care at the time of admission to hospital.
- A non-authorized physician may obtain emergency authorization by placing a telephone call to the Office of Controlled Substances (see below).
- A telephone request can be made at any time of the day. After normal business hours the physician must leave a voice mail message requesting emergency authorization and providing details to support the request.
- The Office of Controlled Substances will respond to the physician within the first business day following the voice mail message.
- The physician must document this phone call, including the time of the call, in the hospital record.
- Once documentation is complete the physician may prescribe methadone for in-patient treatment until the patient is transferred to a physician who has an existing exemption.
- If care of the patient is transferred to a physician who does not have pre-existing exemption, this physician must also apply for emergency authorization as detailed above.
- All involved physicians must inform the office of the Registrar of the Yukon Medical Council on the first working day following the request for emergency authorization.
- The intent of this protocol is to allow treatment and care of an in-patient to proceed with minimal delay while maintaining compliance with federal regulations.

Contact Information

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