



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.

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, meaning 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.

The class exemption will apply when all its conditions are met:

- the patient must be taking methadone prior to their hospitalization;
- the physician must be licensed to practice medicine in Yukon;
- the patient must be under the physician's professional treatment at a hospital;
- the provision of methadone must be necessary to ensure the continuation of the patient's methadone treatment;
- the physician must not be named in an active notice of restriction from Health Canada regarding narcotics;
- the Yukon Medical Council's Methadone Standard of Practice and Guidelines must be followed; and
- methadone must be dispensed or prepared by the hospital pharmacy or by the hospital affiliated pharmacy.

Please contact the OCS directly for more information.

Contact Information

Office of Controlled Substances
Phone: 613-946-5139
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Yukon Medical Council
Phone: 867-667-3774
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