

March 8, 2011

Dear Pharmacist:

I am writing to invite you to participate in a unique education event planned for your region. Following two years of development, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, working with all medical regulators across Canada recently finalized a practice guideline:

Canadian Guideline on Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-cancer Pain.
(Overview article: Canadian Medical Association Journal (vol. 182, no.13, pp. 923-930) full guideline available at: <http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/opioid/>)

Creating the Guideline was just the first part of the task; now we must ensure physicians and pharmacists have useful and relevant practice tools. To this end, we have been working with community partners across the province to plan and deliver workshops on improved opioid use. The half day workshop for your area will take place on:

Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 4:00pm – 9:00pm,
Barrie Golf and Country Club, 635 Vincent St. N. Barrie

The workshop for physicians and pharmacists is designed to include a combination of presentation and interaction with experienced physician presenters. The attached provides more detail about the workshop and how to register. CPSO will handle registrations for both pharmacists and physicians. The workshop is approved for 5.0 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU) from the Ontario College of Pharmacists. I hope you'll consider availing yourself of this opportunity to learn about applying the Canadian Guideline in your practice. Space is limited so register early to assure your seat.

Yours truly,



Anne Resnick, R.Ph., B.Sc.Phm.
Director, Professional Practice Programs

Ontario Community Workshops for Improved Opioid Use

What is the need?

Chronic non-cancer pain is a growing problem and prevents sufferers from participating in their usual life roles with their families, communities and workplaces. Opioids may be effective with some chronic pain conditions but along with the potential benefits come potential risks including addiction, overdose and death. Used properly these outcomes are rare but misuse of opioids is a growing problem in Ontario. Misuse is defined simply as “use of an opioid in ways other than those intended by the prescribing physician”. This includes using the medication to ‘get high’, and a range of ‘diversions’ such as sharing, selling or theft of medications. Many stakeholders are focused on concerns about opioid use, for example:

- community pharmacists are experiencing unprecedented incidents of robbery where opioids are sought
- addiction to prescription opioids has become the most predominate condition in Ontario methadone clinics
- abuse of prescription opioids by Ontario adolescents has risen dramatically in the past 8 years so that it is now second only to alcohol and marijuana, ahead even of tobacco
- specialists who treat chronic pain are finding their wait-lists growing out of control as some family physicians are reluctant to prescribe opioids for chronic non-cancer pain
- acute care facilities such as emergency rooms and walk-in clinics are struggling to effectively manage patients who present with chronic pain conditions, seeking opioids

Workshop Goals:

1. Provide new knowledge and tools via the ‘*Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-cancer Pain*’ to assist clinicians to safely and effectively use opioids to manage chronic pain.
2. Promote inter-professional cooperation and collaboration between physicians and pharmacists to maximize patient safety re: opioid use.
3. Heighten awareness of resources to assist clinicians with opioid prescribing and addiction management and stimulate action to address gaps in resources including awareness of training in methadone and buprenorphine treatment.
4. Promote increased safety for patients, public and health care providers through improved knowledge.

Presenters:

Dr. Andrea Furlan, MD

Dr. Meldon Kahan, MD, CFPC, RCPSC Community Medicine

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Registration Form

PLEASE NOTE THAT SPACE IS LIMITED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:

by mail:

Sid Biondi
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
80 College Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2E2

by fax: (416) 967-2605

by email (enquiries only): cpsocourses@cpsy.on.ca

***Please note that registration is not available via email.**

Workshop date and time: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 **Registration/Dinner:** 4:00-5:00pm **Workshop:** 5:00-9:00pm

Workshop Location: Barrie Golf and Country Club, 635 Vincent St. N. Barrie, ON

Cost: \$90 (HST included); includes light dinner, workshop materials – paper and electronic practice tools; e-copy of the *Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-cancer Pain*

Registration deadline: **Wednesday April 6, 2011**

Pharmacists are reminded that the cost of this workshop may be eligible for reimbursement through the Allied Health Professional Development Fund (AHPDF). See www.ahpdf.ca for application form.

Refunds: Refund requests must be received in writing (including email) **on or before Wednesday, April 6, 2011.** No refunds will be processed after this date.

Questions for local planners?

Suzanne Witt-Foley, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

Phone: (705) 645-7233 **Email:** Suzanne.Wittfoley@camh.net

First and Last Name: _____

OCP#: _____

Address: _____

City/Province/Postal Code: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

VISA MasterCard AMEX Cheque enclosed, payable to CPSO (\$90)

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Name on Card _____