



The Royal College supports new guidelines on opioid prescribing

OTTAWA, May 8, 2017 – The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is supportive of new, national clinical care guidelines focused on harm reduction in opioid prescribing.

“These guidelines are another practice tool for specialist physicians to ensure their prescribing skills are informed by evidence and engage patients in choosing the appropriate pain management therapies,” said Royal College President Dr. Françoise P. Chagnon.

The recommendations for clinical practice have been developed by an international team of clinicians, researchers and patients, led by the Michael G. DeGroot National Pain Centre at McMaster University and funded by Health Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

The Royal College’s key activities and partnerships in response to the opioid crisis include:

- development of rigorous Pain Medicine residency (seven programs in Canada) programs and national and certification exam, giving the public confidence in a specialist’s expertise in pain management and opioid issues
- participation in the Opioid Conference and Summit in November 2016 with 42 provincial and federal organizations, co-hosted by Health Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC);
- signatory to the Opioid Summit, ‘*Joint Statement of Action to Address the Opioid Crisis*’ with a commitment to providing Fellows with educational resources on safer opioids prescribing including an online reference tool and statement of principles;
- membership in the Pan-Canadian Collaborative on Education for Improved Opioid Prescribing with eight national organizations, led by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).

“When it comes to complex health issues like the opioid crisis, we need to continually build on the multiple high quality resources that are currently available to give specialist physicians the practical tools they’re looking for,” said Royal College CEO Andrew Padmos. “I look forward to sharing educational resources with our Fellows that will help them with the day to day care they provide to patients in their individual and unique practice settings.”

The guidelines and related material may be found at <http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/guidelines.html> .

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is the national, not-for-profit organization that oversees the medical education of specialists in Canada by setting high standards for postgraduate medical education and continuing professional development. In

collaboration with health organizations and government agencies, the Royal College also plays a role in developing sound health policy in Canada.

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