

# Regulatory Bylaw Certificate Re Methadone

Approval of the Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSS) is not required when prescribing methadone for pain. There are also other exemptions

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*The Medical Profession Act, 1981*

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SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIAN AND SURGEONS –  
REGULATORY BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The Regulatory Bylaws of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons are hereby amended as follows:

**Regulatory Bylaw 8.1(b)(xv) is repealed.**

**Regulatory Bylaw 19.1 is repealed and replaced by the following:**

**“19.1** Standards for prescribing of methadone or buprenorphine for addiction:

- (a) for the purposes of this bylaw, **‘buprenorphine’** includes all products containing buprenorphine;
- (b) for the purposes of this bylaw **‘initiating physician’** means a physician who prescribes methadone to a patient who is not currently being prescribed methadone or prescribes buprenorphine to a patient who is not currently being prescribed buprenorphine;
- (c) for the purpose of this bylaw **‘maintaining physician’** means a physician who prescribes methadone or buprenorphine to a patient after the patient has been reasonably stabilized on that treatment by an initiating physician;
- (d) no physician shall prescribe methadone or buprenorphine for the treatment of addiction unless the Registrar has approved the physician to do so;
- (e) a physician is not required to obtain approval from the Registrar to prescribe buprenorphine in its transdermal form, nor is a physician required to obtain approval from the Registrar to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine solely for the purpose of pain control;
- (f) a physician is not required to obtain approval from the Registrar to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine to a patient in an Emergency Room or during a short-term admission to a provincial health region facility or in a corrections facility in accordance with College Policies and Standards;
- (g) the Registrar may approve a physician as an initiating physician to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine, or may approve a physician as a maintaining physician to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine, for the treatment of addiction;
- (h) in order to obtain approval to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine, the physician must demonstrate that they have met the requirements to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine as established by the College from time to time in Policies or Standards. Without limiting what is required to meet those requirements, the physician will be required to:
  - (i) have completed an educational program on the prescribing of methadone or buprenorphine, as the case may be, approved by the Registrar;
  - (ii) agree in writing to follow the Policies or Standards of the College related to the prescribing of methadone or buprenorphine as they may exist from time to time;

- (iii) agree in writing to make arrangements for after-hour care of the physician's patients if the physician is not available, and make arrangements during periods of the physician's absence to have an approved prescriber available who will assume responsibility for the physician's patients if required during these periods;
  - (iv) agree in writing to participate in an audit of their prescribing of methadone or buprenorphine if requested by the Registrar;
  - (v) agree in writing to participate in a program of continuing medical education related to the prescribing of methadone, the prescribing of buprenorphine and/or addiction medicine as may be required by College Policies or Standards from time to time;
  - (vi) have access to one or more addiction counsellors and one or more pharmacists to provide patients the full range of treatment options, if the physician seeks approval as an initiating physician;
  - (vii) have access to counselling and pharmacy services if the physician seeks approval as a maintaining physician;
  - (viii) have access to the Saskatchewan electronic Health Record (eHR) Viewer to permit monitoring of drugs prescribed to and laboratory results for those patients to whom the physician prescribes methadone or buprenorphine;
  - (ix) have access to appropriate laboratory services to perform urine drug testing or to collect, store and transport urine for drug testing for those patients to whom the physician prescribes methadone or buprenorphine;
- (i) when considering whether to approve a physician to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine, the Registrar can consider any information that the Registrar considers relevant, including any of the following:
- (i) whether the physician has been subject to any complaints or disciplinary action, and if so, the outcome of such complaints or disciplinary action;
  - (ii) any information from the College's Prescription Review Program that may be relevant to the physician's prescribing;
  - (iii) what qualifications or training, if any the physician holds, or has received in addiction medicine;
  - (iv) whether the physician has access to appropriate methadone or buprenorphine dispensing facilities for those patients to whom the physician prescribes methadone or buprenorphine;
- (j) the Registrar may rescind the approval granted to a physician to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine if the Registrar concludes that the physician has failed to comply with the terms of this bylaw, the physician has failed to comply with the Policies or Standards of the College, or it is in the public interest to rescind the approval;
- (k) the Registrar shall not rescind the approval granted to a physician to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine until:
- (i) the Registrar has given notice, or caused notice to be given, verbally or in writing, to the person, which notice may be given by email communication to the email address provided to the College;
  - (ii) the Registrar has advised the physician of the information to be considered by the Registrar in relation to the possible rescission; and
  - (iii) the physician has been given the opportunity to make representations to the Registrar in any manner that the Registrar may determine;

- (l) the Registrar may rescind the approval granted to a physician to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine without notice or an opportunity for the person to make representations if the Registrar concludes that immediate action is required;
- (m) if the Registrar makes a decision to rescind approval under paragraph (l), the Registrar shall thereafter provide notice to the physician and give the person the opportunity to provide representations as provided for in paragraph (k). If the physician makes representations, the Registrar shall reconsider the decision to rescind approval as provided for in paragraph (j);
- (n) a decision made by the Registrar shall be subject to review by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall give the physician the opportunity to make representations to the Executive Committee in any manner that the Executive Committee may determine;
- (o) the Registrar may grant temporary approval for a physician who does not meet the requirements of this bylaw to prescribe methadone or buprenorphine if the Registrar concludes that it is appropriate to grant that approval to provide continuity of care to patients. The Registrar will, in granting that approval state the period for which that approval is in effect and any conditions or restrictions on that approval.
- (p) it is unbecoming, improper, unprofessional or discreditable conduct to fail to comply with this bylaw".

Certified a true copy of bylaw amendments passed by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons on June 15, 2018.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Dr. Karen Shaw, Registrar,  
Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons.  
Date: June 16, 2018.

APPROVED BY:

Honourable Jim Reiter,  
Minister of Health.  
Date: August 26, 2018.