

## **URGENT MESSAGE TO SASKATCHEWAN PHARMACISTS**

### **Guidance for interim supply of methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone – Dr. B. Fern**

**March 4, 2019**

**Dr. Brian Fern** is unable to attend to his patients at this time.

At this point we are not sure of the length of time Dr. Fern will be away from his practice.

Dr. Fern has approximately 300 patients who see him to obtain Opioid Agonist Therapy (“OAT”) for substance use.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals are working together to ensure that patients continue to receive the care and ongoing medications required for their health condition and substance use treatment. The College of Physicians and Surgeons is working with several practitioners in Saskatoon who may be able to assist in assessing patients to continue their therapy until such time as Dr. Fern returns to practice.

The Colleges have reached out to Health Canada to consider allowing pharmacists the ability to prescribe methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone on an interim basis for Dr. Fern’s OAT patients and only for methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone as per Part K “Prescribing of Drugs” of the SPCP Regulatory Bylaws. Currently federal legislation does not recognize pharmacists as practitioners. We are awaiting a response.

Any patient who is scheduled to see Dr. Fern in the next few weeks should be directed to call the office of Dr. Morris Markentin in Saskatoon for further direction.

Dr Markentin can be reached through any of the SHA hospitals switchboard and will be available for emergencies:

RUH Switchboard	306-655-1000
SPH Switchboard	306-655-5000
SCH Switchboard	306-655-8000

Pharmacies can also fax the MARS/OATP clinic – 306 655 0459.

Dr. Markentin will touch base with Dr. Fern’s clinic daily, so he asks for some patience in regard to fax renewals please.

PLEASE NOTE that Dr. Fern’s current prescriptions for methadone and buprenorphine/suboxone are still valid. Members may refer to our Prescription Validity guidance in our reference manual at

[https://scp.in1touch.org/document/3657/REF\\_Prescription\\_Validity\\_20170216.pdf](https://scp.in1touch.org/document/3657/REF_Prescription_Validity_20170216.pdf)

For more information please contact Lori Postnikoff, Deputy Registrar at the College office.