


Saskatchewan

 Methadone
 Program

Methadone Standards and Guidelines

A Brief Review

Saskatchewan
METHADONE GUIDELINES
 for the Treatment of Opioid Addiction/Dependence

Update

- Saskatchewan Methadone Guidelines recent reviews in 2009, 2015
- Review of Alberta's Standards and Guidelines was done by CPSS in 2014.
- Recent edit done by the Opiate Advisory Committee and approved by counsel 2016.
- Opioid Substitution Therapy Standards and Guidelines 2016.

Why Standards?

- We have an increased number of methadone providers in the province
- Large geographic area
- Stigma of methadone
- Safety issues and myths

Standards

Standards of Practice represent the minimum standard of professional behaviour and good practice expected of physicians.

Guidelines

- Methadone guidelines provide direction and recommendations for effectiveness and optimal care.

Layout

- Chapters 1 – 3 outline the types of methadone exemptions available in Saskatchewan – Initiating, Maintaining and Temporary Exemptions as well as guidelines for those prescribing in corrections.

Layout

- Chapter 4 – Prescriptions
- Chapter 5 – Patient Assessment
- Chapter 6 – Clinical Visits
- Chapters 7,8,9 – Dosing Guidelines
- Chapter 10 – Carries
- Chapter 11 - Urine Drug Screens
- Chapter 12 – ECGs and QTc monitoring

Layout

- Chapter 13 – Methadone and other Medications
- Chapter 14 – Discontinuation
- Chapters 15, 16 – Transfer of Care and Incarceration
- Chapter 17 – OST in Adolescents
- Chapter 18 – Pregnancy
- Chapter 19 – Concurrent Diseases

Layout

- Chapter 20 – Buprenorphine
- Appendices contain many important items and sample forms useful in clinical work