

Fact Sheet

Methadone

- Methadone is a federally regulated drug. Physicians require an exemption license, to prescribe methadone. Exemption licenses are issued through the provincial Colleges of Physician and Surgeons and territorial medical regulatory bodies.
- Requirements and process for obtaining an exemption license are not standardized across the country.
- Methadone is a proven, cost-effective analgesic in palliative care. It is particularly useful in patients experiencing adverse effects from other opioids.
- There is a shortage of physicians who prescribe methadone.
- Methadone can improve care outcomes for palliative patients wishing to remain at home.

Methadone4Pain.ca

- Provides a free, accessible learning option for Canadian physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and others.
- Developed by a pan-Canadian team of pain management and palliative care specialists.
- Identifies and standardizes core competencies for methadone prescribing in palliative care.
- Standardizes care to the latest evidence.
- Approved by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for 1 hr of Mainpro-M1 credits and by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for 1 hr of Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1).

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