



New direction for College's opioid strategy

Council has approved a new direction in its opioid strategy – one that squarely puts the focus on the promotion of quality improvement.

“This revised strategy will see us putting more of our energies into ensuring that physicians have the information they need to prescribe appropriately,” said Dr.

Steven Bodley, College President.

“We will provide physicians with feedback in their assessments, encourage them to access their own prescribing data and promote educational resources,” he said.

The opioid crisis persists, and the College will maintain a clear position and approach to opioids issues and we will continue to respond to prescribing issues. The

College, however, won't be making an additional request for data from the Narcotics Monitoring System (MMS) at this time.

In 2016, the College initiated 84 investigations based on data received from NMS.



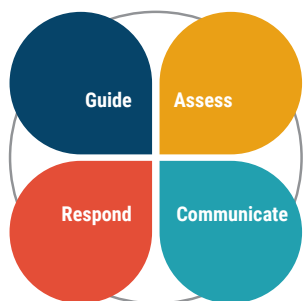
More than half of the cases investigated resulted in some form of action. In most of these cases, the College ordered remediation. Two physicians were referred to Discipline.

The lessons learned from the work completed from the first phase of our opioid strategy will inform our work going forward.

Under the new strategy, the College will continue to advocate for:

- All physicians having real time access to patient medication histories
- All physicians having access to comparative prescribing data (e.g., MyPractice reports)
- The establishment of a provincial prescription monitoring program

“I believe that a strategy that focuses on supporting physicians to prescribe opioids appropriately through communication about resources, advocating for physician access to data and integrating opioid prescribing into assessments will benefit the vast majority of physicians,” said Dr. Bodley. ▶▶



OPIOID STRATEGY

1 GUIDE

- ▶ Review the **Prescribing Drugs** policy

2 ASSESS

- ▶ Revise approach to methadone assessments under Quality Assurance Committee
- ▶ Incorporate opioid prescribing into assessments
- ▶ Include opioids prescribing as a factor in risk-based assessments

3 COMMUNICATE

- ▶ Promote best practices for opioid prescribing
- ▶ Advocate to government
- ▶ Communicate to patients
- ▶ Participate in outreach activities

4 RESPOND

- ▶ Continue to respond to opioid prescribing concerns, using remediation approach, as appropriate

A Closer Look at Our Partners

Over the next several issues of *Dialogue*, we will take a closer look at our partners in education and the resources and approaches being developed to empower physicians to individualize their treatment for patients.

Late last year, Health Quality Ontario brought together key system stakeholders, including this College, to develop a coordinated and integrated approach to support clinicians in the areas of pain management and opioid prescribing. The group, the Opioid Partnered Supports Table (OPST), presents an opportunity for partner organizations with similar yet distinct program offerings to come together to ensure that a wide range of supports are available to help clinicians acquire new skills, connect with peers, access and apply the best available evidence for pain management, and connect patients with local supports for pain management.

We believe that by highlighting the work being done by the partners in this group, individual clinicians will better understand the resources that are available to them.

This work supports the College's Educational

Strategic Initiative to ensure that all individual physicians are supported in addressing identified learning needs and supported in participating in meaningful, effective and individualized continued professional development. Through this Initiative, we aim to influence the education of physicians along the spectrum of their careers.

The series will include a look at the available resources for self-assessment, self-directed learning and how comparator data can be used to inform practice change. The series will also highlight the key resources available, such as courses and online modules, academic detailing and mentoring networks.

Looking for resources in CPD, quality improvement, or practice improvement to support learning? Visit the CPD/Practice Improvement section of the CPSO website www.cpso.on.ca. There are a variety of resources available on a number of topics, including safe opioid prescribing. New resources are added regularly. ^{MD}