

More options for opioid treatment

Patients and physicians will benefit

Opioids are an important part of a comprehensive pain treatment program. When considered for treatment, physicians should ideally discuss a treatment agreement with their patients following an evaluation of opioid risks and before beginning a long-term opioid trial.

To help physicians with this process, a new sample treatment agreement is available that allows for modification to reflect the individual circumstances of each patient.

A treatment agreement may not be nec-

essary for all long-term opioid patients; however, one should be considered for patients who are at high risk of misuse or abuse. The benefits of implementing a treatment agreement include:

- promoting communication between the physician and patient,
- improving patient safety,
- clarifying possible prescribing issues and how they will be managed,
- avoiding misunderstandings,
- improving practice efficiency, and
- assisting the physician in dealing with aberrant behaviors.

Physicians can access the new sample opioid medication agreement at www.cpsa.ab.ca under Programs & Services/ Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP)/ Resources. An information sheet is also available.

For further information, contact Dr. Susan Ulan, Senior Medical Advisor at 780-969-4930, 1-800-561-3899 ext. 4930 (in Alberta), or email Susan.Ulan@cpsa.ab.ca.