



May 3, 2010

New Canadian Guideline for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain

Canadian physicians now have access to more comprehensive and current information regarding the use of opioids to safely and effectively treat patients with chronic non-cancer pain.

The *Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain* offers practical advice for using opioid therapy as a treatment option for this growing patient population. The guideline is not proposed as a policy or standard of practice - it is intended to give physicians advice based on the best available information, research and consensus of opinion.

Canadian Medical Regulatory authorities, including the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta, were involved in the development of the new guideline. The project was led by the National Opioid Use Guideline Group (NOUGG) and supported by a research team and a national advisory panel of pain specialists, family physicians, addiction experts, pharmacists, academics nurses and patient representatives.

The official guideline was released today in conjunction with the publication of a peer-reviewed article in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ). Copies of the guideline are available from the [Michael G. DeGroot National Pain Centre website](#) at McMaster University.

Further information is also available on the [CPSA website](#) and in the following Backgrounder.

The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta licenses physicians, develops and administers standards of practice and conduct, and investigates/resolves physician-related complaints. We also provide leadership and direction on health and related policy issues such as access to services, quality improvement, patient safety and privacy.

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