



SECTION 56 CLASS EXEMPTION FOR PRACTITIONERS PRESCRIBING METHADONE TO INPATIENTS IN A HOSPITAL SETTING

Pursuant to section 56 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA), practitioners are hereby authorized to administer methadone to a person or animal, or prescribe, sell or provide methadone for a person or animal.

The terms used in this exemption have the same meaning as they do in the CDSA and the Narcotic Control Regulations (NCR) except as defined below:

Hospital means a facility, other than a federal, provincial or municipal correctional facility,

- (a) that is licensed, approved or designated by a province in accordance with the laws of the province to provide care or treatment to persons or animals suffering from any form of disease or illness, or
- (b) that is owned or operated by the Government of Canada or the government of a province and that provides healthcare.

Practitioner means a person who is registered and entitled under the laws of a province to practise in that province the profession of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and nurse practitioner who has not been named in a notice in s. 59 of the NCR, unless a notice of retraction has been issued under s. 60.

This exemption is only applicable if the following terms and conditions are met.

(A) Practitioners must:

- (1) Be working as practitioners in a hospital setting;
- (2) Only administer, sell, provide or prescribe methadone to a patient while that patient is under their professional treatment at a hospital;
- (3) Only administer, sell, provide or prescribe methadone to a patient when the methadone is required for a condition for which that patient is receiving treatment;
- (4) Only administer, sell, provide or prescribe methadone as an analgesic agent or for the management of opioid dependence;
- (5) Ensure that the regular treating practitioner is informed of the patient's hospitalization and coordinate the issuance of methadone prescriptions when the patient leaves the hospital; and,
- (6) Comply with any terms, conditions or guidelines related to the sale, provision, administration or prescription of methadone set by the practitioner's provincial or territorial licensing bodies in the province or territory where the practitioner is practising.

(B) The patient must already be receiving methadone treatment prior to their hospitalization.

- (C) Any methadone prescribed, sold or provided under the authority of this exemption must be prepared or dispensed by a hospital pharmacist who practices at a pharmacy that is affiliated with the hospital at which the patient who requires the methadone is located.
- (D) For greater certainty, the practitioner must also comply with applicable provisions of the CDSA and the NCR, including those related to record-keeping.

This exemption will remain in effect until revoked. **Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this class exemption may result in a contravention of the CDSA and its regulations.**

Signed for and on behalf of the Minister of Health



Carol Anne Chénard
A/Director, Office of Controlled Substances
Controlled Substances Directorate
Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch

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