



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## PRESCRIBING BUPRENORPHINE IN YUKON

### 1. Do I need a methadone exemption to prescribe buprenorphine?

No you do not. You are however reminded that as with any drug, the Yukon Medical Council (YMC) expects that all physicians who wish to use buprenorphine to treat opioid-dependent patients will have the requisite knowledge about its intended impacts, side effects and role in addiction treatment. Physicians who prescribe buprenorphine are reminded that they must ensure compliance with all relevant College standards of practice, including, but not limited to: *Safe Prescribing of Drugs with Potential for Misuse/Diversion*, *Methadone* and *Methadone Authorization Procedure*.

### 2. Is there additional training I could take?

- British Columbia Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU): the online training for the Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program is geared towards opioid agonist treatment prescribers, including both physicians and nurse practitioners, however, all health care providers (e.g., nurses, pharmacists, social worker, counsellors, etc.) can benefit from the online education modules.
  - Methadone CME – 4 hours
  - **Buprenorphine/naloxone CME – 4 hours**
  - Full OAT CME – 8 hours

For more information: <http://www.bccsu.ca/provincial-opioid-addiction-treatment-support-program/#support-overview>

- The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) offers the course: “Buprenorphine-Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence: An Online Course for Front-Line Clinicians” This course aims to present a framework for providing maintenance treatment for opioid dependence with buprenorphine/naloxone, including its use in a primary care setting.

For more information: <http://www.camh.ca/en/education/about/AZCourses/Pages/BUP.aspx>

- Additionally there is an online course specific to prescribing Suboxone available. The SUBOXONE Education Program was developed to provide Canadian healthcare professionals with the prerequisite education required to treat opiate dependent patients with SUBOXONE® - buprenorphine (as buprenorphine hydrochloride) and naloxone (as hydrochloride dihydrate).”

For more information: <http://www.suboxonecme.ca/en/login/?t=%2fen%2fhome%2f>

- An additional option for learning could include a one day clinical observership of an opioid dependency practice and would be of great value for new prescribers.

Lastly, ongoing continuing medical education in opioid-dependency treatment may be helpful as new approaches and research evolve to ensure the most appropriate care is being provided.

For more information on opioid and substitution therapy, and opioid and pain resources, see Yukon Government website: <http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/opioid.php>