



CRISTINA HOWORUN
Reporter, CityNews
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Re: CSHP OB Response to CityNews article

Dear Ms. Howorun:

As the current president of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, Ontario Branch I read your recent article titled "Fentanyl is going missing from Ontario hospitals at an alarming rate" with great interest and concern.

The Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) is *a national voluntary organization of pharmacists committed to patient care through the advancement of safe, effective medication use in hospitals and other collaborative healthcare settings.*

As a representative of CSHP in the province of Ontario I wanted to inform you of the following key points:

- Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) is the National Voluntary Voice of hospital pharmacists; CSHP-Ontario Branch (CSHP-OB) speaks for Ontario hospital pharmacists
- CSHP-OB is aware of the current opioid crisis and supports initiatives/actions to combat the crisis including improved controls and monitoring of opioids within hospital settings and the potential for pharmacists to adjust or modify opioid therapy
- Hospital pharmacists have implemented and continue to advocate for additional safeguards to control and monitor opioid inventory within the pharmacy, on patient care areas, and in operating rooms in hospital settings (e.g., automated dispensing units, independent double checks, narcotic destruction, fentanyl patch-for-patch initiatives, etc.)

You will also find further information on the CSHP website (included below) that contains the seven commitments our society has made to help resolve the current crisis with opioids.

Thanks for bringing this important issue forward in your article and feel free to connect with me to discuss this matter in more detail.

Sincerely,

Ryan Itterman, R.Ph., B.Sc.Pharm.
President, Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists – Ontario Branch

Taken from CSHP Website - www.cshp.ca (Accessed November 6, 2017)

Across Canada, the opioid crisis is affecting patients, families, the general public, and the healthcare system. The number of deaths attributed to the crisis is staggering. CSHP is committed to help resolve the crisis.

Joint Statement of Action to Address the Opioid Crisis. CSHP has joined Health Canada, provincial ministries of health, health agencies, health professional regulatory authorities and voluntary associations, and others in expressing in publicly expressing its commitment to resolve the crisis. In its statement, CSHP has committed to the following actions:

- **By December 2017:** Survey its members on their needs for resources on the prevention, education, treatment, monitoring and surveillance, and enforcement practices concerning controlled substances.
- **By May 2018:** Advocate submission of a proposal to Health Canada for the designation of pharmacists under the New Classes of Practitioners Regulations with provincial/territorial licensing authorities and ministries of health, which would authorize pharmacists to prescribe and administer controlled substances.
- **By December 2018:** Issue guidelines for preventing, identifying, and responding to diversion of controlled substances in hospitals and other healthcare organizations.
- **By December 2018:** Publish a Canadian Medication Optimization Briefing on the safe transitions of care for patients on opioids.
- **Ongoing:** Administer an online library of educational and practice-related resources on opioid use, including the updated Canadian Guideline for Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain.
- **Ongoing:** Provide feedback on any revisions of Health Canada's Abuse and Diversion of Controlled Substances: A Guide for Health Professionals.
- **Ongoing:** Contribute to the strategic streams of action and recommendations of the National Advisory Council on Prescription Drug Misuse in the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction's publication First Do No Harm: Responding to Canada's Prescription Drug Crisis Strategy.