



*College of
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DEPUTY REGISTRAR
WERNER OBERHOLZER, M.D.

Practice Alert 2020.05.05

1. COVID-19 outbreaks in Northern Saskatchewan

The College shares the concern of stakeholders about the spread of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan's North, and wishes to remind physicians about the availability of resources for education related to Indigenous Wellness.

[Dr Carrie Bourassa](#) (Professor, Community Health and Epidemiology, USASK) presents a blog on the [Morning Star Lodge](#) website (Indigenous community-based research lab). That website contains webinars and other COVID-19 resources that are culturally safe for Indigenous communities and allies. The [Protecting Our Home Fires Weekly Update](#) contains very pertinent and insightful information.

The [USASK Continuing Medical Education department](#) website has a listing of CPD opportunities, and physicians are encouraged to consider the course [The Role of Practitioners in Indigenous Wellness](#). This course received very high ratings amongst healthcare providers and also received a 2019 CAUCE Award of Excellence.

In addition, the [UBC CPD \(Continuing Professional Development\)](#) website offers a number of educational sessions including Rural COVID-19 Rounds: [Indigenous Health and Cultural Safety in a Pandemic](#) available to physicians and caregivers.

A quick link to these sites with information is available on the [CPSS website](#).

The College's website contains links to other educational sites and opportunities on the [Information for Health Care Providers section](#).

2. Spike in overdose presentations in Saskatchewan Emergency Rooms

There have been reports of a recent increase in overdose related admissions in Emergency Rooms in Saskatchewan. The cause of these may be multifactorial, but does involve prescription opioids.

Physicians are reminded and encouraged to practise due diligence with the prescribing of controlled drugs during the pandemic, where many visits are being conducted virtually.

We strongly encourage physicians to use the [Pharmaceutical Information Program](#) and [eHR viewer](#). Please review the patient's profile and ensure that the prescription is for an appropriate indication; consider possible "double doctoring"; and carefully review the dose and quantity

*To serve the public by regulating the practice of medicine
and guiding the profession to achieve the highest standards of care*

within the context of the access and safety considerations during the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with the [2017 Canadian Guideline for Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain](#).

For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, eHealth Saskatchewan approved a [provisional process for members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan](#) (CPSS) to be able to complete a truncated application and expedited approval process for the use of the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP). PIP provides authorized healthcare practitioners secure online access to the information they need to make the best drug therapy decisions for their patients while preventing drug abuse and misuse, and provides a safe and secure electronic prescription platform. For assistance registering for PIP, contact [Access Management Services at eHealth](#)

The [Prescription Review Program](#) is also available for assistance regarding the prescribing of controlled drugs.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to all of our caregivers during this pandemic for their commitment, dedication and the patient-focus they bring to this necessary and ongoing task. If we keep the patients' best interests at the forefront in the context of care delivery during these uncertain times, we cannot fail.

Sincerely,



Dr. Werner Oberholzer

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