



## CSHP Ontario Branch Key Messages – Opioid Crisis

November, 2017

### Key Messages:

- 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.)
- Refer to Commitments – CSHP National

### Other Messages:

- Hospital pharmacists have witnessed first-hand how the opioid crisis has impacted patients and our communities
- CSHP-OB supports the oversight by Ontario College of Pharmacists and is willing to partner with OCP to share best practices and improve the control of opioids in hospital settings in Ontario
- Gaps still remain to improve the control/monitoring; many hospitals lack funding/resources to implement technology throughout the hospital; CSHP-OB advocates for dedicated resources for hospitals to bolster efforts to audit and control opioids and implement technology
- CSHP-OB has communicated a desire to be involved on the Opioid Emergency Task Force; sent letter to Dr. Eric Hoskins
- CSHP-OB could offer expert information on how best to limit opportunities for opioid diversion within hospital systems in Ontario
- CSHP-OB could play a role in dissemination of best practices and the creation of resources to support hospitals in Ontario
- CSHP National has committed to several actions to combat the opioid crisis – see below:

## **CSHP National Commitments**

### **Joint Statement of Action to Address the Opioid Crisis**

**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 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 in the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse's publication *First Do No Harm: Responding to Canada's Prescription Drug Crisis Strategy*.