

Our opioid policy has changed – Update for prescribers

We have updated our policy to align with provincial and national guidelines and hope you will support us as we implement these improvements for our patients in New Brunswick. Having listened to feedback from the medical community, the following changes align with College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick (CPSNB) and Canadian Medical Association (CMA) guidelines.

For new prescriptions...

- 1 We will fund maximum doses (initially 50 mg morphine equivalents [MME] per day) and limit the initial automatic approval to two weeks.
- 2 Further approval will be monitored for functional improvement and dosing limited to 90 MME per day.
- 3 We require used and unused fentanyl patches to be returned to the prescribing dispensary.

For previous prescriptions...

- 4 The new dosing and timelines will not be applied retrospectively, however physicians prescribing outside these guidelines will be offered support for harm reduction measures moving forward.

Opioid Analgesic Conversion Table

50 MME/Day	90 MME/Day
50 mg of morphine	90 mg of morphine
33 mg of oxycodone (~ 2 tablets of oxycodone SR 15 mg)	60 mg of oxycodone (~ 2 tablets of oxycodone SR 30)
330 mg of codeine (~ 11 tablets of codeine 30 mg)	600 mg of codeine (~ 20 tablets of codeine 30 mg)
1 fentanyl transdermal patch of 12 mcg/hr	1 fentanyl transdermal patch of 25 mcg/hr
10 mg hydromorphone (~ 10 tablets of hydromorphone 1 mg)	18 mg hydromorphone (~ 9 tablets of hydromorphone 2 mg)



More information

WorkSafeNB – Policy 25-012 Medical Aid – Opioids

CPSNB – Guidelines for prescribing opioids

CMA – Opioid therapy and chronic noncancer pain

CMA – Management of opioid use disorders: a national clinical practice guideline

Questions about the new policy?
You can reach us at 1 877 647-0777.