

# Opioid Knowledge Translation: Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) Grant

March 10, 2020

## What's this project about?

Evidence shows that opioid prescribing practices affect the development of addictions and ultimately the unsafe use of opioids. Prescription opioid misuse is risky, widespread and costly, and the opioid crisis has its roots in the health system. Furthermore, research has made it clear that prescribing characteristics influence the risk of harm. To combat this, there is a need to facilitate the adoption of evidence based care guidelines in order to reduce the number of prescriptions and negative outcomes in the community.

## How will we do this?

With the Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) grant this project has proposed targeting three specific areas for implementation and knowledge translation:

1. Management of patients with opioid use disorders through Opioid Agonist Therapies;
2. Establishing a provincial repository of educational resources and materials for providers, patients, and the public related to pain and opioids in Alberta;
3. Management of acute pain through standards, pain assessment, and prescribing practices.

## Where are we now?

Suboxone Initiation in Emergency Departments is planned to be completed in March 2020; other project components are currently in planning phases and by March 2020 intend to have hired supporting staff, conducted a needs assessment, and examined Alberta data and existing resources to help support the development of the initiatives.

## Who is involved?

This Pan-SCN initiative is being led by the Surgery Strategic Clinical Network™ as they are best aligned with the key elements of the work. It is supported by the Emergency and AMH SCNs and aligned with the Alberta Pain Strategy and its relevant working groups to ensure cohesive and consistent approaches. The Alberta College of Family Physicians, the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) are also partners.

For more information, please contact the Surgery Strategic Clinical Network™:  
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