

METHADONE PATIENT'S RIGHTS



Produced by Pivot Legal Society

PIVOT

www.pivotlegal.org 604.255.9700

Respect and Dignity

Methadone is a *medical treatment* for addiction. The care you receive in the Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) program should be equal to the medical care that anyone expects from their doctor, clinic or pharmacy. Throughout your contact with medical professionals, **you have a right to be treated with dignity and respect** at all times by your physician and by the pharmacist filling your prescription.

Quality of care

You have a right to receive the highest quality of medical care. You have the right to receive your prescriptions from the pharmacy exactly when and how your doctor prescribes them. A pharmacist or a doctor cannot punish you for drug use or any other activity by withholding methadone. If you are incarcerated, you have the right to receive your full dose of methadone in a timely manner by the authorities. You have the right to receive treatment that is affordable to you.

Information

You have a right to be informed about the risks, benefits and side effects of MMT and other treatment options before you agree to enter MMT. You have the right to be informed about services that are available to you, including: medical care, counselling, support, and other treatment programs.

Pain medication

Methadone, as a pain medication, is often ineffective for managing pain while you are on MMT. **You have a right to receive pain medication while you are on MMT.**

Choices about services

You have the right to freely choose which doctor to see for care and which pharmacy will dispense your treatment. Intimidation, coercion, threats or bribery by a pharmacist or another person are against the law. You have the right to change your pharmacy at any time.

Complaints

You have a right to make a complaint to the College of Pharmacists or College of Physicians and Surgeons about any violation of your rights.

Contact: College of Pharmacists: (800) 663-1940 or College of Physicians and Surgeons: (800) 461-3008 (both toll-free).

For assistance with a complaint, contact BCAPOM:

Phone: (604) 683-6061

Email: vandu@vandu.org

www.vandu.org



BC Association of People on Methadone (BCAPOM) meets every Wednesday (not welfare week), 1:30-3:00 at VANDU: 380 E. Hastings Street, Vancouver