



April 2nd, 2020,

RE: Safe Supply Prescription During COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Practitioner,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Association for Safe Supply, a national organization focused on ensuring access and supply to predictable, regulated substances. This letter is to inform you of the urgent need to prescribe "safe supply" for people at risk of opioid overdose and COVID-19 infection.

Safe supply is an approach grounded in research (including ten published studies) which states that injectable and tablet injectable opioid assisted treatments are a vital measure to prevent fatal overdose.

We come to you with this evidence in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to encourage prescribers to keep their patients safe. In order to keep an effective social distance, people must be able to "self isolate" for fourteen days.

We are encouraging you to write prescriptions with "take home" or "carry" doses of legal, regulated opioids like hydromorphone or dilaudid, stimulants and/or benzodiazepines. Recently British Columbia introduced new guidelines designed to support isolation in place for people who use drugs within the context of two public health emergencies- covid19 and the overdose epidemic. This measure was in response to Health Canada's recent exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act for practitioners and pharmacists to support isolation in-place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Westfall", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jordan Westfall

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On behalf of

The Canadian Association for Safe Supply

For prescriber resources visit:

SafeSupply.ca/resources

C.A.S.S.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE SUPPLY