

Patient Information Letter

Title of Project: Opioid and Pain Management in Pharmacies Program (OPMPP)

Primary Investigator:

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Summary of Project:

There is a need to develop and implement new strategies to address the opioid crisis as it continues to worsen and contribute to death and hospitalizations in Ontario. Prescription and behind the counter opioids play a role in the opioid crisis as they are commonly used to treat pain and have a risk for physical dependence or addiction, however, your pharmacist can help you effectively treat your pain while also minimizing the risk for these potential harms to occur. Pharmacists play an important role as medication experts and educators where they can collaborate with you and your prescriber to identify ways to improve your drug regimen and increase your knowledge about your drug therapy.

This research project involves the application and evaluation of an opioid and pain management program in Ontario community pharmacies. The purpose of this research project is to demonstrate the program's feasible application of a medication consultation service that focuses on the appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids, as well as their safe and appropriate use in chronic pain patients. This research study is being conducted by the Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) in conjunction with the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy and is funded by the Ontario Health Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence.

Procedure:

If you meet the eligibility criteria for this study, your involvement may include attending (either in person or virtual) up to 3 appointments with the pharmacist which includes an initial consult and up to 2 follow-ups. The purpose of these appointments will be to review your medical history and medications, identify opportunities to optimize your therapy and provide you with education.

After each appointment, the pharmacist will fill out an online outcomes survey to share with the research team. This survey will not contain any patient health information and your name will never be identified in the survey. Some examples of outcomes that are shared with the research team include: the amount of time to complete the appointment, the categories of drug therapy problems identified by the pharmacist, and the categories of education provided to you. The purpose of the outcomes survey

will be to help demonstrate the potential for improved health outcomes as a result of the opioid and chronic pain medication consultation.

Following each appointment with the pharmacist you will be invited to complete a 5-minute anonymous satisfaction survey. The survey can be completed online or via a physical copy that is mailed to the research team. The anonymized data from either survey may be used in publications and scientific presentations to advocate for a standardized and publicly available service for patients.

Confidentiality and Data Security:

The outcomes survey will not contain any personal patient health information and your name is never identified in the survey. Your pharmacist will assign a unique participant ID which will be used to communicate with the research team when submitting the online outcomes survey. The satisfaction survey is anonymous, no personal information is shared with the research team.

You may withdraw your consent to participate at any time. You may request to have your data from the outcomes survey removed from the study up until publication (estimated to occur by March 2025) by contacting the research team at opmpp@opatoday.com or 1-877-341-0788. However, data cannot be removed from the satisfaction survey as it is anonymous when submitted. Data from both surveys will be securely stored in encrypted files on a password-protected computer and internet storage for 7 years.

Risks and Benefits:

If you do not meet the study eligibility criteria or you do not consent to participate in this study, but would still like to review your medications, ask your pharmacist about the services they offer. Please note that other services may have their own eligibility criteria in order for it to be an insured service. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, you may be required to pay out of pocket for the professional service. Please speak to your pharmacist for more information.

Participation in this study may provide some benefits to you, such as the ability to increase your knowledge about your medications and potentially improve your quality of life through improved medication management.

Please note that your decision to participate in this research study is voluntary and will not impact the care you receive from the pharmacy.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the University of Waterloo Research Ethics Board (REB #45514). If you have questions for the Board, contact the Office of Research Ethics, toll-free at 1-833-643-2379 (Canada and USA), 1-519-888-4440, or reb@uwaterloo.ca. For all other questions regarding this project, please contact Ashley Cid at the Ontario Pharmacists Association at 1-877-341-0788 or opmpp@opatoday.com.

If you would like to participate in this research study, please inform your pharmacist by providing your verbal consent.