

Safe Prescribing in the Emergency Department

What to expect

The best person to prescribe narcotic medicines is a doctor you see regularly, preferably a family doctor. This doctor would prescribe medicines as part of your overall care.

We understand sometimes special situations lead people to coming to the Emergency Department with requests for medicine. However, our Emergency doctors are very cautious when prescribing certain types of medicines for you.

Narcotic medicines have many risks. Possible misuse or abuse of these medicines can cause serious harm and even death.

Emergency doctors only prescribe these medicines if they feel it is safe and appropriate for you:

For your safety:

- We do not refill lost or stolen prescriptions for these types of medicines.
- We do not give new prescriptions for these medicines if:
 - Our records show that past prescriptions have not been taken as directed.
 - Our records show that past prescriptions have been written by a number of doctors.
- We will not prescribe long-acting pain medicines such as Methadone, MS Contin, or Fentanyl patches to people with chronic non-cancer pain.
- We do not usually give pain medicine injections for sudden increases in chronic pain.

If you or someone you know needs help with a substance use problem, call the B.C. Alcohol and Drug Referral Service:
604-660-9382
toll free 1-800-663-1441
(available 24 hours a day, every day)