



Dr. Louie Kriel
Council President
College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan
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October 11, 2017

Dear Dr. Liskowich and Mr. Parker:

As Council President for the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CDSS), I am writing to you in support of your application to the Health Canada Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) for a grant to develop and implement an Opioid Stewardship Program in Saskatchewan.

CDSS is a self-governing body that oversees the practice of dentists in the province. Our mission is to provide safe, excellent, comprehensive patient-centered oral facial health care to the public.

In order to combat the growing problem of opioid abuse, healthcare providers across the health disciplines need to be proactive in our approach to this issue. Preventing the unnecessary introduction of opioid therapy into patients' treatment plans when safer, first line alternatives are available is a vital part of the long-term strategy needed to manage opioid dependence.

Your objective of developing and disseminating educational materials for prescribers of opioids, including dentists and dental surgeons, aligns with the CDSS vision of regulated healthy members enabling a healthy public. An Opioid Stewardship Program that incorporates education, advocacy, and harm reduction, such as that which you have proposed, would address a critical, unmet need in Saskatchewan.

The CDSS has a history of successful collaboration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS) through participation in the Prescription Review Program that monitors controlled substances such as opioids. The potential of this program to increase education and awareness for the CDSS and CPSS and provide clear guidance on best practices is enormous.

As such, on behalf of CDSS, I am happy to accept your invitation to partner on your proposed Opioid Stewardship Program and to collaborate to establish opioid prescribing standards and to disseminate this information to our Dental Professionals. The CDSS looks forward to working in conjunction with you and your team to promote appropriate prescribing practices for pain management in Saskatchewan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Louie Kriel
Council President
College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan