

METHADONE FOR ANALGESIA IN PALLIATIVE CARE: ONLINE EDUCATIONAL TOOL

Methadone is a valuable analgesic in the care of patients in palliative care with cancer pain. The prescribing of methadone can improve care outcomes in situations where other analgesia have proven ineffective or intolerable. Methadone, a restricted opioid in Canada under the federal Narcotic Control Regulations, can only be prescribed by a physician who is exempted from prescribing restrictions by the physician's provincial or territorial licensing body. Methadone prescribing by palliative care and pain and symptom management teams is limited by the paucity of family doctors able to continue with ongoing prescribing in patients discharged to care in the community.

At the conclusion of this session, participants will: 1. Name 3 specific indications for the use of methadone in patients with advanced disease 2. List 3 key features of methadone that makes it more challenging to use than other more common opioids 3. Have become aware and developed an interest in Methadone4Pain, an innovative educational tool about methadone prescribing, available to practicing Health Care Providers and learners