

## Listing of Commercially Available Methadone Products (Methadose<sup>®</sup>, Metadol-D<sup>®</sup> and generic brands)

The listing of the commercially available methadone products (Methadose<sup>®</sup>, Metadol-D<sup>®</sup> and generic brands) on the Saskatchewan Formulary, and the change to Exception Drug Status coverage of compounded methadone, has been approved by the Minister of Health

The listing of the commercially available products is consistent Health Canada's Health Products and Food Branch Inspectorate's *Policy on Manufacturing and Compounding Drug Products in Canada*, which directs that compounding should only be done when there is a lack of a commercially available product. The Institute of Safe Medication Practices also recommends the use of commercially available methadone solution to prevent compounding errors.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of **the listing of these products will be delayed until the fall of 2020**, to maintain some stability for methadone patients during this difficult time period.

The recent Health Product Risk Communication issued by Health Canada on *Methadone Treatment of Opioid Dependence and Potential Differences in Product Effects*, indicates that there may be potential differences in product effects between the commercially available products. Health Canada is working with key stakeholders to examine this issue. The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch will review the results of Health Canada's review once it has been completed. The communication can be found at the following link:

<https://healthykanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2020/72675a-eng.php>.

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals recently updated their Opioid Agonist Therapy Standards.

[https://www.saskpharm.ca/document/5871/REF\\_OAT\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.saskpharm.ca/document/5871/REF_OAT_Standards.pdf)

### Who to Call:

#### If you or your patients have any questions, please call:

- Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch at 306-787-3317 (Regina) or 1-800-667-7581